

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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Büdingen
Christmas market**
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speeds entry
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Meriam Al-Khalifa Johnson and Jason Johnson

Volume 63, No. 229 © EPSS 2004

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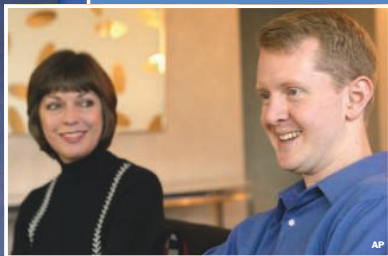
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2004

50¢

U.S. troop numbers to rise for Iraq vote

No Europe units tapped to stay longer or deploy early Page 5

‘Jeopardy!’ superman loses on 75th game



**Woman defeats
winner of largest
game show jackpot**

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Left: “Jeopardy!” contestants Ken Jennings and Nancy Zerg hug after his 74-game winning streak on the show came to an end. His winnings totaled more than \$2.5 million. Above: The two contestants talk to reporters on Tuesday, the day Jennings’ last show aired in the States.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

'Alexander' not so great



Scene on Sunday

Korean cooking for the holidays

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News Tracker ■■■ What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Graner prisoner abuse case: The soldier shown most prominently in photos of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq has returned to a U.S. military base and will have a hearing before a military judge Monday, his attorney said. Spc. Charles Graner Jr., 36, of Uniontown, Pa., was returned under military escort to Fort Hood, Texas, this week, his civilian defense attorney, Guy Womack, said Wednesday.

Statements by President Bush and military leaders have tainted any potential military panel, Womack said, and he will seek to have the case dismissed during preliminary hearings next week.

"I'm asking the court to dismiss on the grounds of unlawful command influences," Womack said.

"The president and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have made statements saying my client is guilty and there should be punishment."

States

Woman's execution: The Texas parole board has recommended delaying the execution of a woman accused of killing her husband and two young children, leaving the chance for a reprieve in the hands of the governor.

Gov. Rick Perry can agree with the board's 5-1 vote or allow the execution to go ahead as scheduled Wednesday. Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said late Tuesday the case was under review.

Frances Newton, 39, could become the first black woman executed in Texas. She was convicted in the 1987 shooting deaths of her husband and two children, ages 20 months and 7. Prosecutors said Newton killed her family to collect \$100,000 in insurance benefits.

The parole board recommended delaying her execution for four months so her attorneys can conduct new ballistics tests on the pistol prosecutors said was the murder weapon and chemical analysis on the clothing she was wearing.

Turnpike strike: The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission said Tuesday night that it reached a tentative contract with striking toll collectors, ending a walkout that began a day before Thanksgiving.

The toll collectors were scheduled to return to work their next scheduled shifts, beginning at 11 p.m. Tuesday, turnpike spokesman Bill Capone said.

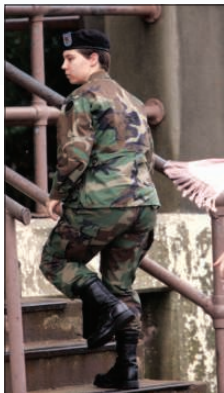
The agreement, which is still subject to union ratification, was reached around Tuesday evening, officials said. Terms of the contract were to be released Wednesday morning.

Sheryl Crow case: A love-struck fan who admittedly pursued singer Sheryl Crow for 15 months was acquitted Tuesday of stalking her.

A jury deliberated about three hours before finding Ambrose Kappos, 38, not guilty of burglary and stalking charges. He faced up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Outside court, Kappos said he believes he was "delusional" when he thought he was communicating telepathically with Crow.

During the trial, defense lawyer Stanford Hollick pointed out that Kappos was always polite and never threatened anyone. Kappos insisted he was merely a love-struck fan.



Lynndie England case: Pfc. Lynndie England arrives at the XVIII Airborne Corps Staff Judge Advocate Building at Fort Bragg, N.C., for an Article 32 motion hearing Wednesday leading up to her Jan. 18 court-martial on abuse charges stemming from photos of her pointing and smiling at naked Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. Her lawyers moved Wednesday to throw out statements she made when first questioned about the abuse, including that reservists were just "joking around, having some fun." Paul Arthur, an Army special investigator, testified that England was aware of her rights, including to have a lawyer present, when she was interviewed. At the end of the questioning, he said, she wrote and signed a statement detailing her actions.

BTK killer: The serial killer known only as "BTK" suggests in letters that he was born in 1939 and is a railroad buff, authorities said Tuesday as they appealed to the public for clues to his identity.

Police released a summary of personal details provided in recent letters they believe were sent by the killer.

The killer — known by the self-coined nickname BTK, which stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — is linked to eight unsolved homicides that terrorized Wichita between 1974 and 1986. After years of silence, the killer surfaced again, sending messages earlier this year.

Nightclub fire: Attorneys representing families of some of the 100 people killed in the West Warwick, R.I., nightclub fire as well as a number who were injured have agreed to drop CBS Broadcasting Inc. as a defendant in one of the lawsuits filed in the aftermath.

Lawyers for both sides signed a stipulation dropping the claims against CBS. The stipulation was entered into the court record on Monday.

CBS attorney Michael DeLuca said CBS was originally named in the suit because plaintiffs thought it had control over WPRI-TV. The CBS affiliate employed one of the nightclub's owners and a cameraman who was at the club recording tape for a story on building safety when the fire began.

World

Powell in Haiti: Secretary of State Colin Powell met on Wednesday with Haitian political leaders and other opponents of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide in Port-au-Prince in what is likely his last visit to Haiti as the United States' top diplomat.

Shortly after Powell entered the National Palace in the Haitian capital for meetings with President Boniface Alexandre and Prime Minister Gerald Latortue, gunfire erupted outside. It was not clear whether the shots were aimed at the palace, but a palace security officer said they appeared to come from a single passing car.

Powell went to Haiti to reaffirm U.S. support for democracy there, review American efforts to help the country overcome recent natural disasters, and commemorate World AIDS Day by meeting with young Haitians who receive and provide HIV/AIDS support services.

Philippines storm: The death toll from a powerful typhoon that triggered landslides and flash floods in the eastern Philippines rose to 412, with 177 people still missing, officials said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, winds and rain from another approaching typhoon hampered rescue efforts and prompted authorities to raise an alert over the country's already battered eastern provinces.

Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes told disaster officials in Manila that police had recovered 412 dead, 63 injured and 177 missing.

China mine explosion: The death toll in a huge coal mine explosion in central China rose to 166 on Wednesday, government radio reported, making it the deadliest accident in the country's disaster-plagued mining industry in years.

The report on the Web site of China National Radio came after officials said rescue efforts were blocked by fires and toxic fumes in the Chenjiashan coal mine, which was hit by an explosion Sunday.

"All 166 miners in the mine are dead," the report said, citing an unidentified spokesman for the rescue headquarters. It didn't say whether more bodies had been found or given other details.

South Korea nuclear experiments: North Korea vowed Wednesday to make South Korea's past secret nuclear experiments a top priority for discussion in six-nation nuclear talks aimed at ending the communist North's nuclear weapons programs.

The North threatened to further complicate the prospects for the stalled talks, as Washington and its allies are struggling to set a date for resuming the nuclear negotiations. A meeting scheduled for September failed to take place because the North refused to attend.

"It is illogical for (North Korea) to unilaterally dismantle its nuclear deterrent force unless the secret nuclear-related experiments of South Korea are thoroughly probed," a spokesman of the North's Foreign Ministry told its official news agency, KCNA.

"Under this situation (North Korea) is left with no option but to increase its nuclear deterrent force," the spokesman said.

Alleged spy flights: North Korea claimed Wednesday that the U.S. military conducted at least 190 spy flights against it in November, seeking an opportunity to invade.

"This is a clear indication that the U.S. imperialists are watching for a chance to mount a pre-emptive attack on the [North], while frantically pursuing their hostile policy towards it," said the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Scars speed entry to more USAREUR bases

Kaiserslautern security to check ID cards against electronic pictures; registration urged

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

Starting this week, people trying to enter U.S. Army Europe facilities around the Kaiserslautern military community will be met by guards carrying a new kind of weapon: a laser scanner.

Security forces began checking stored electronic pictures against the ones on identification cards Wednesday at Kleber Casern and Rhine Ordnance Barracks for registration with the Installation Access Control System, a new security program gradually being rolled out by the military.

They will begin scanning an ID card's bar code at Messau on Thursday, with Panzer Casern scheduled to start the screening sometime in the coming weeks,

according to the Army's IACS security officer for the KMC area, Norbert Kurz.

The new scanning stations will more than double the number of Army gates currently checking people for IACS registration around the KMC — 17 will eventually employ the system — and put another dent in USAREUR's goal of having 199 Army and U.S. Air Force Europe gates online by next March.

"We're shooting to complete all fielding, to include USAFE, by the end of March," said Lt. Col. Kevin Sickinger, the IACS European project officer.

Sickinger called that time line, however, "rather aggressive."

In order for the system to work, ID card holders must register. That requirement, plus construction at some gates needed to

facilitate hardware installation, has slowed the rollout of the system in Europe, and pushed the completion date into next spring.

Around Kaiserslautern, all access points are physically ready for IACS installation, Kurz said, but registration numbers aren't high enough yet to open them all simultaneously.

"We're doing a few locations at a time," he said. "We have the ability to put it all at the gates, [but] we don't want to create any confusion."

According to Air Force officials, about 44,000 people in the KMC area need to register for the system. Through mid-October, about 33,000 people had done so, Sickinger said.

Across Europe, a similar percentage of

people is now logged into the system. About 250,000 people have registered, Sickinger said, just short of the goal of having around 300,000 "steady state" personnel registered. While as many as 450,000 people might be eligible for registration in Europe at any one time, he said, many of those are in transition to other theaters, which changes their IACS information.

Nonregistered people who approach a gate where the system is being used can get through, Kurz said, but may be delayed. To register, people should contact their local registration station, and system's registrar needs to be notified whenever an ID card changes, for example, if a person is promoted or the card's expiration date changes.

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U.S. troops with NATO force to deploy to Iraq

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

U.S. military members from the NATO Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy, will be deploying to Iraq in the next few weeks as part of a planned larger force in the alliance's Training and Implementation Mission.

NATO officials recently approved an operational plan for the mission that includes an increase in the number of forces in Iraq to between 200 and 300, with an undetermined number of additional troops for force protection.

The alliance initially deployed to Iraq in August and currently has about 60 military personnel from 10 nations.

"The secretary-general [Jaap de Hoop] said that he hopes to see this mission get off the ground in its larger sense before the end of the year, and so we will be working towards that time line," said a NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

As part of this larger force, nearly 400 Army, Navy and Air Force JFC members finished two-days of pre-deployment processing at the Naval Support Activity Naples Capodichino base earlier this week. JFC spokesman Giovanni Malafrotoni couldn't say how many of them will be deploying to Iraq, nor give a date for the deployment of the Naples personnel.

"The NTM-I mission will begin when SACEUR [the supreme allied commander Europe, Marine Corps Gen. James Jones] issues the activation order," Malafrotoni wrote in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

One military member undergoing the pre-deployment processing said he expects that U.S. members who have more than a year left on their NATO tours will make at least one deployment to Iraq.

NATO's Iraq mission is to help the country eventually provide for its own security. The provisional Iraqi government had asked NATO to help with training and had asked for other technical assistance.

The initial group of NATO personnel in Iraq came from JFC and the Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway. A team from the Naples NATO base has also deployed to Baghdad to develop infrastructure-related plans for the Iraqi military academy.

As well as providing training in Iraq, NATO has also trained members of the country's security personnel in Europe.

In early November, 19 senior military officers and civilians from Iraq's Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior took part in an eight-day course at Stavanger focusing on such as crisis management, command and control of security forces, operation planning process, and civilian and military cooperation.

Others have received training at a NATO base in Oberammergau, Germany, according to the NATO official.

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Airmen enjoy a volleyball game inside the Dassault Mercure Hangar at Istres, France. The Air Force has called the hangar home for almost 11 years, but its mission will soon be ending.

Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

U.S. military to end mission in France

NATO decides to end operation; Air Force to complete work by end of year

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

Au revoir, France.

The United States' lone sizeable military mission in France will soon end when the Air Force finishes its operations at the air base in Istres.

"The final final day hasn't been decided yet," said Col. Jim Malenke, commander of the 774th Expeditionary Air Base Group. "But we're going to cease operations at the end of December."

Officials stressed that the American government's relationship with the host country — thought to be chilly after French opposition to the ongoing U.S. mission in Iraq — has nothing to do with the move.

Malenke says the mission, operating under NATO auspices, just isn't needed any more. It was a NATO decision to end the operation a few months short of its 11-year anniversary.

The 107-member contingent — made up of active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve elements — will hold a ceremony Dec. 17 officially ending the 10-year mission.

Following World War II, the Unit-

ed States had several bases in France. But under then-President Charles de Gaulle, France pulled out of NATO military operations in the late 1960s, ending the U.S. presence in the country, including in Istres.

France eventually reversed its stance, and with NATO air missions over the Balkans increasing dramatically in the early 1990s, the need for refueling aircraft prompted an American return.

On Feb. 14, 1994, the Yanks were back.

Since then, the mission has centered on the KC-135s, though U-2 spy planes were also based there for a time. At one point, more than 300 American personnel temporarily called Istres home. Five aircraft were assigned on a rotation basis from bases around the globe, though only three have been used recently.

On the ground, the force does its work in a huge hangar adjacent to the French air base in Istres, a small city northwest of Marseille. The hangar, which is privately owned, will be turned back when the Air Force pulls out.

Malenke, an Air National Guardsman from Wisconsin, is serving his

fifth tour in Istres. Airmen have served in rotations lasting from a few weeks to six months over the course of the mission. Many hail from bases in the States and are not active-duty airmen.

"As someone from the National Guard, this has been one of our favorite deployments in the last 10 years," Malenke said.

And not because they spend a lot of time lounging on the beaches in southern France.

Malenke said the weather and scenery certainly aren't anything to complain about, but it's been the relationships with their hosts that have made the mission stand out.

"I've never had a problem with the French people at all," he said. "They've been great."

When it's not busy supporting the missions in the air, the American contingent has made appearances at a host of memorials and dedications tied to French and American history.

"We get more invitations than we can honor," Malenke said. "Especially in the summer. The French really know their history."

A small chapter in that history closes this month.

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Army to add two biological detection units at Kitzingen

By RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

The Army will add two biological detection units to the 1st Infantry Division this spring as part of a Defense Department initiative to help combat units detect biological threats.

The two platoon-size units will have about 64 soldiers and 14 detection vehicles and will be based at Kitzingen, according to a U.S. Army Europe news release.

"These units are tactical biological detection units that support de-

ployed Army units," said Hilde Patton, V Corps spokeswoman. "They could be deployed anywhere Army units are deployed to provide biological agent detection."

When the units are not deployed, they will train for their wartime mission, Patton said. However, the units will not join 1st ID troops on their current deployment to Iraq, the release stated.

The units — currently part of the 307th Chemical Company, a combined active-duty and Reserve unit from Lodi, N.J. — use

the Biological Integrated Detection System. The system uses computer-controlled air sampling to detect biological agents, the release stated. If an agent is detected, radio or computer networks will disseminate warnings to the soldiers.

Each of the 14 detection systems is carried in a shelter attached to a Humvee.

Soldiers assigned to the unit will train at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., before moving to Germany.

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Court lets stand schools' bans on military recruiters

By DAVID B. CARUSO
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Colleges and universities can ban military recruiters from campus without fear of losing federal money, an appeals court has ruled.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday struck down a decade-old federal law known as the Solomon Amendment, saying it infringed on the free speech

rights of law schools that had sought to limit on-campus recruiting in response to the military's ban on homosexuals.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of 25 law schools around the country, a three-judge panel said the government's threat to yank funding amounted to compelling the schools to take part in speech they didn't agree with.

"While no doubt military lawyers are critical to the efficient operation of the armed forces, mere incantation of the need for legal talent cannot override a clear First Amendment impairment," the court wrote.

The judges added that the law may have had the unintended effect of hampering recruiting by engendering ill-will among potential recruits.

By a 2-1 vote, the panel overturned an earlier decision by a federal judge that the people challenging the law were unlikely to prevail at trial.

The ruling may affect all institutions of higher learning, but

the case revolved around law schools because most had developed policies prohibiting discrimination by on-campus groups on the basis of sexual orientation.

Monday's ruling represented the first time a court had enjoined the government from enforcing the law.

The Justice Department, which represented the government in the case, said it was examining the decision and reviewing its appeal options.

"The United States continues to believe that Congress may deny federal funds to universities which discriminate and may act to protect the men and women of our armed forces in their ability to recruit American

casualties who wish to join them in serving our country," the agency said in a statement.

One judge on the panel wrote a stinging dissent. Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert said he was personally disturbed that law schools would, "as an academic exercise," ignore the consequences a recruiting ban would have on the military's ability to compete with well-heeled law firms for young talent.

"They obviously do not desire that our men and women in the armed services, all members of a closed society, obtain optimum justice in military courts with the best-trained lawyers and judges," Aldisert said.

*The case
revolved
around law
schools that
had sought to
limit
on-campus
recruiting in
response to the
military's
ban on
homosexuals.*

Hanau full of holiday cheer at tree lighting ceremony



The Hanau, Germany-based 16th Corps Support Group got into the holiday spirit Tuesday night with a tree lighting ceremony at Hütler Casern. Hot chili, hot chocolate and hot spiced wine kept everyone warm as the Hanau Middle School band and the local Scouts entertained with Christmas carols. Santa Claus arrived by firetruck and all the kids got to talk to the jolly old elf. Above: Christopher Marquis, 8, tells St. Nick, aka Sgt. Juan Sanchez, what he would like for Christmas. Right: Seventh-grader Aleah Patterson, 13, dressed in holiday style, plays the flute with the Hanau Middle School band.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes



Schweinfurt service set for 1st ID GI killed in Iraq

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — A memorial service will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the Ledward Chapel for a 1st Infantry Division soldier killed in Iraq on Saturday.

Spc. Jeremy E. Christensen, 27, of Albuquerque, N.M., died when an makeshift bomb detonated near his patrol vehicle in Duwailah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Memorial service set for Vilseck GIs killed in Iraq

VILSECK, Germany — A memorial service will be held at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the Vilseck Chapel for two Vilseck-based soldiers killed in Iraq.

Sgt. Jack Bryant Jr., 23, of Dale City, Va., died Nov. 20 in Muqadiyah, Iraq, when a makeshift bomb exploded near his military convoy, followed by a rocket-propelled grenade attack. Bryant was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Fire Support Team (1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment).

Sgt. Trinidad R. Martinez, 22, of Los Angeles, died Sunday in Baquba, Iraq, when his five-ton vehicle rolled over and pinned him underneath. Martinez was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's 201st Forward Support Battalion.

From staff reports

Some 82nd Airborne troops headed for Iraq

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is sending elements of the 82nd Airborne Division to Iraq to bolster security in advance of Iraq's election, scheduled for late next month, an Army official said Wednesday.

Two battalions of the 82nd Airborne Brigade (the Division Ready Brigade), based in Fort Bragg, N.C., are going in, to equal 1,500 paratroopers, an Army official told Stars and Stripes.

In addition, at least two Army brigades now operating in northern Iraq will have their tours extended by about two months, until after the election, the official said speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Pentagon is extending more than 10,000 servicemembers for a period of two to four months. By the time elections are held in January, there will be about 150,000 U.S. troops on the ground, up from an estimated 138,000.

The following units will be extended:
■ The 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ 2,000 Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, based on Okinawa,

Two battalions to bolster security for election; at least two brigades in north to be extended

Japan.

■ Elements of the 13th Corps Support Command, of Fort Hood, Texas, though the Army official could not say which elements.

The Pentagon announced in late October that about 3,500 soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and 3,000 from the 1st Infantry Division headquarters would remain in Iraq two months longer than planned.

The decisions were announced Wednesday. Members of the 82nd Airborne, and their families, were notified of the decision Tuesday, the official said. The battalions were given what the Army calls a warning order, alerting them that they will be going.

The 82nd Airborne is generally relied upon by the Army to keep one of its three brigades on short-notice alert year-round

to deploy abroad in the event of a crisis. Shortly before the October elections in Afghanistan, elements of the 82nd Airborne were sent there to beef up security.

Military officials have said repeatedly in recent weeks that they were considering whether more American troops would be required to provide sufficient security in advance of the Jan. 30 election.

As recently as Tuesday, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said commanders in Iraq were still studying troop requirements ahead of the election. He was quoted by the Pentagon's internal news service as saying in Indianapolis that the number of troops needed was "to be determined."

The moves that were to be announced Wednesday are in line with expectations — a combination of holding some troops in

Iraq longer than scheduled and sending some fresh forces from the United States.

The United States now has about 138,000 troops in Iraq. It is in the midst of swapping out units that have been there for a full year with fresh forces, including the 3rd Infantry Division, which helped spearhead the original invasion and toppling of Baghdad in the spring of 2003.

Officials have said they were considering sending some elements of the 3rd Infantry to Iraq earlier than scheduled, as part of a force-bolstering plan. It was not clear Wednesday whether that decision had been made, but some officials suggested it was unlikely.

Security problems are most severe in the so-called Sunni Triangle area north and west of Baghdad, as well as in the capital itself. Voter registration has not yet begun in the more unstable cities such as Fallujah and Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

Recently there also has been trouble in the northern city of Mosul. On Wednesday, U.S. soldiers traveling through Mosul on a mission to discuss the January election with Iraqis came under fire at a gasoline station, witnesses said. One U.S. soldier was wounded in the ensuing gunbattle.

Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry return fire Wednesday during a gunbattle with insurgents in Mosul, Iraq. The soldiers came under fire when they stopped at a gasoline station. One U.S. soldier was injured.

AP

Iraqi president backs Jan. 30 election date

BY SAMEER N. YACUBI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim, said Wednesday that elections should be held on time on Jan. 30, giving key support to the timetable despite violence in large parts of the country and calls by some powerful Sunnis to postpone the vote.

U.S. soldiers traveling through Mosul on a mission to discuss the January election with Iraqis came under fire Wednesday when they stopped at a gasoline station, witnesses said. One U.S. soldier was wounded in the ensuing gunbattle.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, meanwhile, met Iraqi Sunni tribal leaders in neighboring Jordan, trying to drum up support for the election, seen as vital for building a democratic government in Iraq.

Insurgents continued to launch attacks. On Baghdad's dangerous airport highway, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive-laden vehicle near two SUVs, wounding three civilians, according to police. One of the SUVs was left lying overturned in the road after the blast, which hit the same spot on the highway

where a suicide bomber rammed a U.S. military convoy a day earlier, wounding several soldiers.

A militant Islamic group, Ansar al-Sunnah Army, claimed in a Web posting Wednesday to have abducted and killed three Iraqis working for the U.S. Marines. "Right away, the mujahideen carried out God's punishment and shot them to death," the group said, warning that all those "who work with the crusader forces" will be treated as harshly as Americans would be.

The persistent violence has raised fears that voting will be impossible in some areas and a major Sunni group has called for a boycott of the election to protest the U.S.-Iraqi offensive on Fallujah last month.

But al-Yawer, who wields considerable influence among Sunni tribal figures, told reporters in the north of the city, especially in Baghdad that he opposed any delay.

"I personally think that there is a legal and a moral obligation to hold elections on the set date," he said. "Legally and morally, we have to abide by the date set for the elections in the country's adminis-

trative law" which mandates a ballot by the end of next month.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said it has arrested 210 suspected militants in a weeklong crackdown against insurgents in an area south of Baghdad known as the "triangle of death."

The operation, codenamed Plymouth Rock, was launched in part as a follow-up to last month's assault on Fallujah, the main insurgent bastion 40 miles west of Baghdad. U.S. commanders want to cut off escape routes for Fallujah fighters and pacify the troubled region ahead of the national elections.

Separately, U.S. troops detained 17 suspected militants during a series of raids on Tuesday in and around Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city.

The city's entire 5,000 member police force disintegrated during an insurgent uprising last month, forcing the U.S. command and the interim government to draw troops from the offensive in Fallujah to retake the city.

At least 50 people have been killed in Mosul in the past two weeks — most of them believed to have been supporters of the interim government or members of its security forces.

.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,253 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 981 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally.

It's not unusual for the figures to differ slightly from day to day.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,115 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 874 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:
■ One U.S. soldier died Monday from wounds sustained when his patrol was attacked with a bomb near Alqura, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Adam R. Brooks, 20, Manchester, N.H., killed Sunday in Iraq's Babil province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Charles A. Hanson Jr., 22, Panama, Fla.; killed Sunday in Iraq's Babil province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pfc. Stephen C. Benish, 20, Clark, N.J.; died Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, when he was attacked while on patrol; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

■ Marine Cpl. Gentian Marku, 22, Warren, Mich.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Summerall's many memorials honor fallen

Gym, MWR facility help remember nine soldiers who've died

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE
SUMMERALL, Iraq

Step onto Camp Summerall, and it doesn't take long to determine who are the fallen brothers.

Their names and pictures are everywhere: at the Sgt. Peter Enos memorial aid station; the SPC Nicholas Zangara MWR facility; the SPC Joshua Henry memorial gym; and the SPC. Morgan Jacobs airfield. At least one facility is named after each of the nine Summerall soldiers who died in Iraq: eight from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and one from the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery.

On the wall of the 1-7 Field Artillery's headquarters building (an old airport control tower named Firebase Laramore-Matthews, after two more lost comrades) are photos of each dedication ceremony, along with a wooden plaque listing the names and dates of each of the unit's eight deaths and 19 injuries.

The latest addition is a giant 20-foot-by-60-foot memorial wall inside the Jones-Mallet Memorial Hall. Below the division and unit crests hang large photos of each man. The unit dedicated the wall on Veterans Day.

Their youthful faces smile down from framed portraits: Zangara's distorted, goofy mug with an eerie halo around his head; the beety, bald-headed Enos in a brown Army T-shirt, hands on hips with his head cocked to one side; Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Jones, grinning widely beneath a shock of thick black hair, wearing a stunningly blue University of Florida Gators T-shirt.

The many memorials were the idea of Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders, 42, of Hedrick, Iowa, the 1-7 Field Artillery's senior enlisted soldier.

"It shows the guys how much we care about our fallen comrades," Sanders said. "The death of a friend is something you just don't erase."

He enlisted the unit's two carpenters, SPC Paul Diaz, 30, of Los Angeles, and SPC Nathan Gintz, 22, of Dundee, Ohio, to create the monuments and signs in addition to their work of building furniture for the task force.

"The [memorial] wall was real significant," said Gintz, who served in Battery A with both Enos and Henry. "A couple of my best friends are on that wall."

Diaz and Gintz said the unit didn't know about the project until they were almost finished. As it neared completion, they focused lights on it in the otherwise darkened aircraft hangar. About 50 soldiers gathered around to see it.

"At first, they had no idea what it was," Diaz said. "Then they came and stood around it."

The memorials have made an impression on the troops at Summerall. "Some people think it's kind of nice, and some people think it's kind of odd," said Staff Sgt. Dan Sovell, 30, of Vidalia, Ga., who was killed in the convoy with Henry when he was kidnapped by small-arms fire Sept. 20. "But I like it."

"If you don't [memorialize] them, nobody will remember OIF2 (Operation Iraqi Freedom 2). ... People came out here and gave their lives."

Sanders said the unit will take the pictures and plaques that now hang in the headquarters buildings home to the 1-7



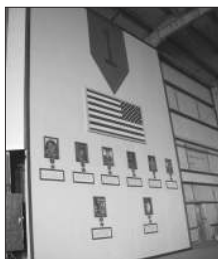
Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery gather around a photo of their platoon-mate, SPC Nicholas Zangara, at the dedication of the MWR facility at Camp Summerall in his memory. Zangara was killed July 24.

WAYNE SANDERS
Courtesy of the U.S. Army



WAYNE SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, commander of Task Force 1-7, speaks at the dedication of the unit's aid station in memory of Sgt. Peter Enos, a medic who died April 9.



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Task Force 1-7 dedicated this memorial wall on Veterans Day to the soldiers who were killed while stationed at Forward Operating Base Summerall, Iraq.

Field Artillery's headquarters in Schweinfurt, Germany, when it heads back this spring.

He has talked to the sergeant major of the incoming unit, who has agreed to keep the names of the various facilities, replacing them only if the unit loses soldiers of its own.

Remembering the fallen

Like many U.S. camps around Iraq, Forward Operating Base Summerall has tried to honor those who have died in the line of duty. The nine soldiers based out of Summerall who have died this year have each had a facility dedicated to their honor

Staff Sgt. Toby W. Mallet
Kaplan, La.
Battery C,
1st Battalion,
7th Field Artillery
Died: April 9
Age: 26



SPC Tracy L. Laramore
Ocala, Fla.
1st Battalion, 18th
Infantry Regiment
Battery A,
Task Force 1-7
Died: March 17
Age: 30



Cpl. Marcos O. Nolasco
Chino, Calif.
Battery B,
1st Battalion,
33rd Field Artillery
Died: May 18
Age: 34



SPC Clint J. Matthews
Bedford, Pa.
1st Battalion, 18th
Infantry Regiment
Battery A,
Task Force 1-7
Died: March 19
Age: 31



SPC Nicholas J. Zangara
Philadelphia
Battery C,
1st Battalion,
7th Field Artillery
Died: July 24
Age: 21



Sgt. Peter G. Enos
South Dartmouth,
Mass.
Battery C,
1st Battalion,
7th Field Artillery
Died: April 9
Age: 24



SPC Joshua J. Henry
Apollo, Pa.
Battery A,
1st Battalion,
7th Field Artillery
Died: Sept. 20
Age: 21



Sgt. 1st Class Raymond E. Jones Jr.
Gainesville, Fla.
Battery C,
1st Battalion,
7th Field Artillery
Died: April 9
Age: 32



SPC. Morgan N. Jacobs
Santa Cruz, Calif.
1st Battalion, 18th
Infantry Regiment
Battery A,
Task Force 1-7
Died: Oct. 7
Age: 20



Stars and Stripes

"That way, it stays pure," Sanders said. "It's a name, and it's an honor."

The memorial wall will stay as it is. The faces on the wall, he said, will remind future soldiers that war isn't just about glory. It's about loss.

"It's real," Sanders said. "And this is a reminder that it's real."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

"The death of a friend is something you just don't erase."

Command Sgt. Maj.
Wayne Sanders

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Report: U.S. generals knew about prison abuse

BY JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A confidential report to Army generals in Iraq in December 2003 warned that members of an elite military and CIA task force were abusing detainees, a finding delivered more than a month before Army investigators received the photographs from Abu Ghraib prison that touched off investigations into prisoner mistreatment.

The report, which was not released publicly and was recently obtained by The Washington Post, concluded that some U.S. arrest and detention practices at the time could "technically" be illegal. It also said coalition fighters could be feeding the Iraqi insurgency by "making gratuitous enemies" as they conducted sweeps netting hundreds of detainees who probably did not belong in prison and being held there for months at a time.

The investigation, by retired Col. Stuart A. Herrington, also found that members of Task Force 121 — a joint Special Operations and CIA mission searching for weapons of mass destruction and high-value targets including Saddam Hussein — had been abusing detainees throughout Iraq and had been using a secret interrogation facility to hide their activities.

Herrington's findings are the latest in a series of confidential reports to come to light about detainee abuse in Iraq. Until now, U.S. military officials have characterized the problem as one largely confined to the military prison at Abu Ghraib — a situation they first learned about in January 2004. But Herrington's report shows that U.S. military leaders in Iraq were told of such allegations even before then, and that problems were not restricted to Abu Ghraib. Herrington, a veteran of the U.S. counterinsurgency effort in Vietnam, warned that such harsh tactics could imperil U.S. efforts to quell the Iraqi insurgency — a prediction echoed months later by a military report and other reviews of the war effort.

U.S. treatment of detainees remains under challenge.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross recently told U.S. military officials that the treatment of inmates held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was "cruel, inhumane and degrading."

Herrington's report, which was commissioned by Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, the top intelligence officer in Iraq, said some detainees dropped off at central U.S. detention facilities other than Abu Ghraib had clearly been beaten by their captors.

"Detainees captured by TF 121 have shown injuries that caused examining medical personnel to note that 'detainee shows signs of having been beaten,'" according to the report, which later concluded: "It seems clear that TF 121 needs to be reined in with respect to its treatment of detainees."

A group of Navy SEALs who worked as part of the task force has been charged with abuse in connection with the deaths of two detainees they arrested in the field. One died in a shower room at Abu Ghraib on Nov. 4, 2003, a month before Herrington arrived for his review.

A military source who participated in Task Force 20, the predecessor to TF 121, said the task force comprised several 12-man units that had targeted missions, such as searching for Saddam loyalists and terrorists. TF 20, which had about 1,000 soldiers, incorporated Army Rangers, members of Delta Force and Special Forces units working with CIA agents. They planned their missions nearly autonomously and answered either directly to the theater commander or to officials in Washington, the source said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the missions were classified.

Task Force 121 added Navy SEAL units

but was slightly smaller overall. Herrington wrote that an officer in charge of interrogations at a high-value target detention facility in Baghdad told him that prisoners taken by TF 121 showed signs of having been beaten.

Herrington asked the officer whether he had alerted his superiors to the problem, and the officer replied: "Everyone knows about it."

While several investigations have been completed into the Abu Ghraib scandal and U.S. interrogation practices in Iraq, an official military inquiry into the detention activities of Special Operations forces has not been released. That probe, headed by Brig. Gen. Richard P. Formica, was expected to be presented to Congress earlier this year, but a Pentagon spokesman said it is ongoing.

Of the Herrington report, a Pentagon official said top generals in Iraq, including Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, who at the time directed U.S. forces there, reported the alleged abuses to officials at U.S. Central Command, which oversees military activities in the Middle East. The official said TF 121 was investigated, but he could not provide details.

"The Herrington report was taken very seriously," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the report has not been released.

U.S. forces plot winter offensive in Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thousands of U.S. soldiers are preparing an operation against Taliban insurgents to pre-empt an expected spring offensive that could upset plans for Afghan parliamentary elections, a senior American general said in an interview.

The operation will begin within days of the Dec. 7 inauguration of Hamid Karzai as Afghanistan's first directly elected president — an event that itself is a potential target, Maj. Gen. Eric Olson told The Associated Press late Tuesday.

"There could be an unhappy coincidence between the enemy's spring offensive and the parliamentary elections," Olson said, but the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul.

He said the aim is to tighten the Afghan-Pakistan border by sending special forces on raids against rebel fighters.

Olson said the offensive — which will cover the entire

U.S.-led force of about 18,000 — would attempt to disturb militants in their "winter sanctuaries" so that they will be in no shape to move against the parliamentary vote slated for April.

The military will "attempting to attack him in those sanctuaries while he's resting and refitting, staging and planning," said Olson, the operational commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The new operation, dubbed Lightning Freedom, follows Lightning Resolve, a security push begun in July to protect the October presidential election, the first vote since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

Forty people were reported killed on election day, Oct. 9, but Taliban holdouts failed to make good on threats to assault polling stations across the country.

More than 8 million Afghans voted, handing Karzai a majority that foreign donors bankrolling the country's democracy rebirth hope will bring stability after more than 20 years of fighting.

Still, violence continues to



Maj. Gen. Eric Olson speaks at the main U.S. base in Bagram, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. Thousands of U.S. soldiers are poised to begin a fresh operation against Taliban insurgents to prevent an expected spring offensive from upsetting plans for fresh Afghan elections, Olson said.

plague the south and east, where militants are strongest. A roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers in Uruzgan province last week, and American officials say militants continue to cross to and from neighboring Pakistan.

To reinforce the frontier, Olson said the U.S. military would establish several new camps close to the border.

Bodies from crash on way to U.S.

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Search teams have recovered the bodies of six Americans who died when their plane crashed high in Afghanistan's snow-covered mountains, U.S. military officials said Wednesday.

The plane went down Saturday, but search efforts were complicated by bad weather and difficult terrain, said military spokesman Maj. Mark McCann.

He said identities would be released later by the Defense Department and Florida-based Presidential Airways, which had contracted the CASA 212 transport plane to the U.S. Air Force.

A plane carrying the bodies left Bagram on Tuesday, bound for Dover Air Force Base, Del., McCann said.

"An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the crash. However, at this time, we have no indication this crash was caused by hostile fire," McCann said.

"The indications we have is that it got into a valley and tried to gain altitude quickly," Maj. Gen. Eric Olson said. "The pilot apparently recognized that we was not going to be able to gain altitude quickly enough and tried to make a very dramatic turn, didn't make it and crashed into a very narrow valley."

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Pakistan-based militants seen as threat to Americans

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants based in Pakistan are planning to infiltrate relief groups and companies in Afghanistan as part of a plot to abduct U.S. citizens, the U.S. Embassy warned Wednesday.

The embassy said the warning, which also cautioned that Americans were at risk from suicide attacks, was based on fresh intelligence and urged Americans to take stringent security precautions.

The Pakistani militants "planned to use employment with nongovernment organizations or

present themselves as construction contractors to gain access to the organizations prior to conducting a kidnapping operation," it said in a note circulated to U.S. citizens.

The note didn't identify the militant group or the organizations it might target in Afghanistan. It said it was unclear when any attack might take place.

The note urged foreigners to be on guard for rocket attacks, assassinations, hijackings and other

— The Associated Press

Anthrax vaccine plant

FREDERICK, Md. — The nation's only maker of a licensed anthrax vaccine cut the ribbon Tuesday for a new plant capable of producing 100 million doses annually for sale to federal, state, local and foreign governments.

Emergent BioSolutions Inc., the newly formed parent of anthrax vaccine maker BioPort Corp., is buying a building for the \$95 million plant in an industrial park south of Frederick.

The federal government has agreed to include a minimum of 5 million doses of Emergent's vaccine in a developing national stockpile of antidotes to biological and chemical weapons.

The company will continue operating its plant in Lansing, Mich., spokeswoman Kim Brennan Root said. That plant has supplied more than 5 million doses of anthrax vaccine to the federal government since 1998 for military vaccinations.

The Gaithersburg-based Emergent will immediately begin outfitting the 150,000-square-foot Maryland space, with completion expected in 18 months to two years, officials said. The plant will employ 100 workers initially and 300 to 400 eventually, officials said.

Slaying investigation

KILLEEN, Texas — A Fort Hood soldier suspected in the Thanksgiving weekend slayings of four people, including three strip club employees, told police he videotaped two of the killings while another man did the shooting, according to court documents released Tuesday.

Timothy D. Payne, a private with the 4th Infantry Division, and Richard L. Tabler, a former customer at Teazers Gentlemen's Club, were arraigned Tuesday on capital murder charges and ordered held on \$4 million bond each, Bell County District Attorney Henry Garza said.

Neither Tabler nor Payne had attorneys by Tuesday afternoon, a court clerk said.

According to the arrest warrant affidavits, Payne, 18, and Tabler, 25, used a video camera to capture Tabler shooting the strip club's manager, Mohamed-ameen, Rahmond, 25, and his friend, Haidam Frank Zayed, 28, on Nov. 26. Two days later, two female dancers were fatally shot.

It was not immediately clear if investigators had seen the videotaped slayings. Bell County Sheriff Dan Smith referred calls to Garza, who declined comment on the evidence in the case.

Smith said Monday that authorities believe the victims were part of a revenge plot hatched by Tabler after he was asked to stop visiting the club. Smith said Tabler drew up a "hit list" of as many as nine men targets.

Although Tabler told police he had been fired from a job at the club, manager Scott Davis told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Tabler never worked at Teazers. He said Tabler had been a regular customer for a couple of months until he was asked to leave about three weeks ago.

He said nothing major prompted Tabler's ouster, but Tabler liked to tell people he worked security at the club and tried to develop relationships with several of the dancers by doing favors for them outside of their work.

From The Associated Press

Military helicopter crew asked to use instruments

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The pilot of a military Black Hawk helicopter that crashed in fog, killing seven people including a brigadier general, had good visibility at takeoff but asked air controllers about instrument flight minutes before the crash, the Dallas Morning News reported Wednesday.

The helicopter's pilot contacted controllers at Waco Regional Airport for the instruments-only flight plan, Darrell Meachum, regional vice president for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, told the newspaper. Pilots use the instruments when visibility is poor.

The helicopter clipped support cables for a TV transmission tower and crashed Monday in a field 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood, killing everyone aboard. The victims were all from the 4th Infantry Division based at Fort Hood.

Col. Donald MacVillie had said Tuesday that the Black Hawk was operating under visual flight rules at the time of the crash. He said that decision was based on a weather briefing. Visibility had been good upon departure from Fort Hood for a two-hour journey to the Red River Army Depot near Texarkana.

But Meachum said the crew wanted to switch to using instruments.

"He called us at 6:45," Meachum said. "He reported that he was at 800 feet and interested in an IFR [instrument flight rules] flight plan, and we asked

him to state his position. He said, 'Currently ... stand by, sir.' " Waco controllers never heard back from the pilot, Meachum said.

The helicopter crashed about 7 a.m.

Investigators from the Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., were examining the wreckage. An internal investigation will also look into the crash's cause, said Maj. Randy Cephus, 4th Infantry Division deputy public affairs officer.

Lights on the TV tower whose support wires were hit had stopped working last week when strong storms hit the area, said Jerry Pursley, general manager of television station KXXV, the tower's owner.

The station notified the Federal Aviation Administration about the lights, and the agency said the notice was entered into a computer database on potential hazards checked by pilots before they fly.

MacVillie said he wasn't sure if the crew was aware of the FAA bulletin, but he said it was standard procedure for his pilots to keep up with hazard alerts.

Crash victims included Brig. Gen. Charles "Ben" Allen, 49. He was born in Alaska but listed Oklahoma as his home of record. Others killed were the pilots, Chief Warrant Officer 2 David H. Gardner Jr., 32, of Iowa, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark W. Evans Jr., 27, of Florida; Col. James M. Moore, 47, of Pea-body, Mass.; Capt. Todd T. Christmas, 26, of Wagon Mound, N.M.; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Douglas V. Clapp, 48, of Greensboro, N.C.; and Spc. Richard L. Brown, 29, Stoneham, La.

Princess, Marine file for divorce

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The five-year marriage between a former Marine and a young Bahraini royal, whose story provided the basis for a made-for-television movie in the United States and upsurge in her home country, is over.

"It was what she wanted," Jason Johnson told the Las Vegas Review-Journal of the divorce he and Meriam Al-Khalifa filed for Nov. 17, the day after their fifth wedding anniversary. It calls them "incompatible in marriage."

Johnson, who had sneaked his beloved into the United States and was court-martialed over the relationship, cast the tale as a "Romeo and Juliet" love affair that disintegrated amid Las Vegas nightlife, opposition by his wife's family, and at least one death threat.

Al-Khalifa was not represented by a lawyer in the divorce filing. No one answered her apartment door Monday and it was unclear whether she planned to stay in the United States.

The story started in January 1999 when Johnson was stationed in Bahrain, an island kingdom off the coast of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Khalifa is one of five daughters of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, a distant relative of Bahrain's king, Sheikh Hamad



Meriam Al-Khalifa Johnson, a real-life princess from Bahrain, and her husband, Jason Johnson, a former Marine, answer questions during a news conference in January 2001. The two filed for divorce in Las Vegas in November.

bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

They met at a mall and fell in love, though he was a Mormon and she was a Muslim, forbidden to marry a non-Muslim.

About a year ago, Johnson said,

Al-Khalifa left him. He lives now in Las Vegas with his stepmother.

"Deep down inside, she knows that I loved her more than any therapy in the world," Johnson said.

"I can say I enjoyed every minute I spent with her."

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IN THE STATES

What awaits next chief

By TED BRIDIS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tom Ridge's successor as chief of the Homeland Security Department will have to unify a sprawling bureaucracy, a deadly serious job where failure could put the United States at risk of another terror attack.

Ridge, who announced his resignation Tuesday, acknowledged the frustrations of working out the kinks in the broadest government reorganization in half a century, a job critics say remains largely incomplete. "I like going to work every day," Ridge said, before adding, "There are certain days I've enjoyed it even more."

Ridge said he will remain in the job until Feb. 1, unless the Senate confirms his successor earlier. Among those cited as potential candidates are Bernard Kerik, the former New York City police commissioner who helped rebuild Iraq's police force; former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe All-

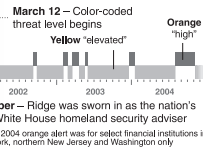


Source: Department of Homeland Security

Ridge resigns

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, who presided over six "orange alerts," announced his resignation Tuesday.

Risk of terrorist attack



baugh; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt; and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.

Others are also believed to be interested in the job, including Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security in the Homeland Security Department.

Critics said Ridge's legacy is mixed at Homeland Security, a collection of 22 disparate federal agencies with more than 180,000 employees. It includes Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Customs Service, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration, with a combined budget of \$36 billion.

"He was dealt an impossible hand," said Richard Clarke, the former top counterterrorism adviser to President Bush who resigned

last year. "He was not allowed to make some of the key decisions about the beginning of the department. I think anyone would have failed under those circumstances."

Although the Homeland Security Department originally was envisioned as a broker of intelligence after the 2001 terror attacks, the Bush administration opted to establish a new terrorist screening center and terrorist threat integration center, set up at the FBI and CIA respectively.

Even loyalists to Ridge acknowledge the next secretary must work to unify the organization, which still uses hundreds of different computer networks for systems such as intelligence, accounting, procurement and hiring. Auditors have complained about the department's spending controls and the security of its own computer networks, and it can take months at Homeland Security to hire key employees for important positions.

Laci Peterson's family takes stand

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Scott Peterson simply watched as his former mother-in-law rose out of the witness chair and screamed at him for killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Sharon Rocha, wearing a gold heart-shaped pendant with a picture of her daughter in it, took the stand Tuesday in the penalty phase of Peterson's murder trial. She wrapped up the state's case the same day it began, giving the most emotional testimony of four family members called to the stand. Laci's older brother, younger sister and stepfather also spoke.

"She wanted to be a mother. That was taken away from her," Rocha said to Peterson, who was convicted Nov. 12 for the 2002 murders of his wife and the 8-month-old fetus she was carrying.

Rocha went on, her voice cracking. "Divorce was always an option — not murder," Rocha said in a voice so loud that some jurors jumped.

At one point, Peterson dabbed his eyes with a tis-



Earlier, prosecutor Dave Harris said Laci's death left a hole in her family's hearts "that can never be repaired."

"When the defendant dumped the bodies of his wife and unborn son into the bay, those ripples spread out and they touched many, many lives," Harris told jurors. The only appropriate punishment, he said, is death.

sue. Jurors will recommend whether the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman should be executed or get life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 2002 murders.

Throughout the testimony, prosecutors displayed photographs of Laci, including one from Mother's Day 2002. Taken a week after Laci's 27th birthday, the picture showed Laci, her mother and her grandmother.

Methodists to start trial based on gay clergy law

By RICHARD N. OSTLING
The Associated Press

PUGHTOWN, Pa. — When the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud told her congregation last year that she lives with a lesbian partner, she set the stage for the United Methodist Church's third trial under a law forbidding clergy who are "self-avowed practicing homosexuals."

Stroud could be defrocked if she loses the trial, expected to begin Wednesday, with a closed-door selection of 13 jurors from regional clergy.

Stroud says she realized she was a lesbian while attending Bryn Mawr College. After graduating from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, she was ordained and assigned in 1999 as associate pastor of Philadelphia's First United Methodist Church of Germantown.

Two years later, Stroud held a "covenant ceremony" with Chris Paige at Paige's Tabernacle United Church in Philadelphia, which is affiliated with both the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Church of Christ.

Stroud notified her Germantown congregation of the relationship in a sermon on April 27, 2003. "I know that by telling the truth about myself I risk losing my credentials," she said, but decided "my walk with Christ requires telling the whole truth."

Stroud said in an interview that if she is defrocked, the Germantown congregation has already promised that she can continue her current educational, pastoral and preaching work under lay status, though she would no longer be able to preside at baptisms or communion services.

"I'm aware that a lot of folks are watching this case," Stroud said, noting that she and her church have received hundreds of supportive letters, e-mails and



The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud conducts a Communion and prayer service at her First United Methodist Church in the Germantown section of Philadelphia on Sunday.

phone calls. But "for me it really is a very personal issue."

The Rev. Thomas Hall of Exton, Pa., was assigned by the regional bishop to preside at the church's case. He said the trial involves "any denomination's authority to hold ministers accountable to the sacred trust they have agreed upon" when they were ordained.

The UMC's 1984 law barring "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from the ministry was reaffirmed by a 72 percent vote at the Methodist's General Conference in May.

Given that language, conviction might seem automatic. But last March, a church court acquitted the Rev. Karen Dammann, a pastor in Washington state who also lives openly with a same-sex partner and the Methodists' national supreme court decided it had no power to review the verdict.

Rossi governor-elect of Wash. — but not for sure

By DAVID AMMONS
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Republican Dino Rossi was certified as Washington's governor-elect on Tuesday, but the closest gubernatorial race in state history is far from over.

Secretary of State Sam Reed, the state's chief elections officer, certified Rossi's 42-vote victory over Democrat Christine Gregoire.

"A recount is almost a certainty," Reed said after making the re-

sults official. "The candidates and political parties have until 5 p.m. Friday to request and pay for an additional recount."

On Friday, Democrats are expected to request a hand recount of all or part of the 2.8 million ballots, and the Republicans may weigh in as well. The uncertainty could last until Christmas.

Some are even worrying about whether a winner will be known in time for inauguration on Jan. 12. Incumbent Gov. Gary Locke,

a Democrat, did not stand for a third term.

Locke said Tuesday that he hopes a second recount will include the entire state and not just selected areas.

At a news conference in Bellevue after

Reed's announcement, Rossi thanked his supporters and suggested Gregoire consider conceding. He stopped short of calling for her to quit the race, saying, "She has to decide what she wants to do, what she believes is best for the state of Washington."

Gregoire, a three-term attorney general, had been forecast to win with ease and John Kerry and Sen. Patty Murray easily won for the Democrats here. But Rossi, a self-made real estate millionaire and a former state legisla-

tive power, edged Gregoire in both the regular count — by 261 votes — and in the automatic machine recount completed last Wednesday.

Each candidate polled 48.87 percent and each got 1,374 million votes.

"Right now, the state is divided smack down the middle," Gregoire's spokesman, Morton Brillant, said in Washington. "It's worth taking three (more) weeks to have four years of legitimacy, and that's what is at stake."



Study: Mental stress makes women's cells age faster

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The immune cells of women under extreme mental stress age faster than those in women not facing such pressure, a new study reports.

While previous reports have linked physical effects with stress, the new analysis helps pinpoint an important focus for these

problems.

The study focused on the telomeres in the chromosomes of particular immune cells of 58 women between the ages of 20 and 50.

Telomeres cap the ends of chromosomes and shorten as cells reproduce, a measure of age. When they reach a minimum level the cells can no longer reproduce.

The report, published in Monday's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences,

found that the telomeres in the cells of women under stress had undergone the equivalent of 10 years of additional aging, compared to women living more normal lives.

"Chronic stress appears to have the potential to shorten the life of cells, at least immune cells," lead author Elisa Epel of the University of California at San Francisco said in a statement.

"The results were striking," added co-author Elizabeth Blackburn, also of UCSF.

The researchers studied 58 women, 19 of whom were mothers of healthy children and 39 who were tending chronically ill children.

They reported that "the exact mechanism that connects the mind and the cell are unknown."

The researchers said they will now begin work to see if other

types of cells are affected by stress.

The research was funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Hellman Family Fund, the University of California at San Francisco, National Institute of Mental Health, National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, Steven and Michele Kirsch Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the Dana Foundation.

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Wis. community comforts hunting incident survivors

BY ROBERT IMRIE

The Associated Press

RICE LAKE, Wis. — Two survivors of a deadly deer-hunting confrontation joined a community prayer service where organizers urged people to avoid falling into fear and prejudice in the wake of the shootings blamed on a Hmong immigrant.

Lauren Hesebeck and Terry Willers, whose six friends were killed in the shootings, sat near each other at the service Tuesday organized by area ministers. About 900 people packed the auditorium for the 70-minute service of prayers, Bible readings, music and calls for healing in this town of 8,300 — a community one pastor described as full of "souls exhausted by grief."

"Community support is great," Hesebeck said, a blaze orange ribbon pinned to his jacket in memory of his hunting buddies.

"That is about all I want to say."

Asked about the emotion of the last few days, Hesebeck, who was wounded in the shoulder, just lowered his head and walked to his seat at the Rice Lake High School Auditorium. Willers, his neck still in a brace from the wound he suffered, declined to comment.

The six deer hunters gunned down in the confrontation Nov. 21 lived in the Rice Lake area. The last of the funerals was Monday.

Chai Soun Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., has been charged with the shootings.

Melissa Paulette drew groans and sighs of dismay when she said a friend saw a bumper sticker that read, "Save a deer, shoot a Hmong."

"We must remember the family of the shooter did not pull the trigger," she said. "Wouldn't God want us to pray for them and try to heal their pain too?"

Hours earlier in Hayward, Vang made his first court appearance under tight security in a basement classroom at the county jail for his own safety. On Monday, prosecutors filed charges accusing him of intentionally killing six hunters and trying to kill Willers and Hesebeck Nov. 21 after Vang was asked to leave the private land where the others were hunting.

MILITARY SALES



Fla. officials consider nixing Election Day

BY BETH KASSAB
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Florida's election supervisors are proposing one way to make voting easier: Do away with Election Day.

Voters would cast ballots during a span of several days or weeks ending on the traditional voting day, under a plan endorsed Tuesday by supervisors at their meeting in Orlando. The group will now lobby lawmakers for changes during the spring legislative session.

The overwhelming response to this year's 15 days of early voting — when an estimated 2.3 million people cast ballots statewide before Election Day — convinced most supervisors that voters are now demanding new freedom to show up at the time and place of their own choice.

The change would dramatically reform the way the state runs

New system would span days, involve 'voting centers'

its elections, effectively creating a more streamlined system needing fewer poll workers, precincts and equipment.

Voters would no longer be required to report to assigned precincts, even on Election Day. Instead, people would be able to select from a number of large "voting centers" in their county.

"It's a leap in the way we think about things," said Pasco County Supervisor Kurt Browning. "It would be the logical next step."

Though the proposal is still in its infancy with few details hammered out, the group of Florida's 67 county supervisors modeled their proposal after one Colorado county's election setup.

Larimer County, Colo., did away with traditional precincts this year and replaced them with "vote centers." Instead of having

190 polling places, officials created 31 vote centers throughout the county.

The cost of bringing the plan to Florida is unknown, Browning said, but it could cut expenses just as supervisors are scrambling to find money to meet new federal and state requirements to improve access for disabled voters and to upgrade voting equipment.

The change would do away with a lot of election headaches, supervisors say, because it would, by some estimates, cut in half the number of polling places.

Orange County Elections Supervisor Bill Cowles said he could replace his 252 precincts with about 80 voting stations where voters from all parts of the county could go to cast ballots.

Fewer polling places would re-

duce the number of voting machines and would require fewer poll workers, which could cut salary and training costs. It also would reduce the chances of human error and electronic glitches, supervisors said.

One of the only concerns from the group came from those who

did not know whether their counties had large enough facilities to host the voting centers for as many as 15 consecutive days.

Regardless, the group said it would not be satisfied without at least some changes, pledging to at least demand larger voting centers during early voting.

"One day of 12 hours of voting is ridiculous," said Penny Halyburton, supervisor in St. Johns County. "We're beyond that."



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Fla. hurricane season ends

BY BILL KACZOR

The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — One of the most traumatic hurricane seasons in Florida history officially ended Tuesday with Gov. Jeb Bush calling the occasion a time for "reflection and celebration."

Florida was hit by four hurricanes in a single season, a two-month barrage of storms that triggered the nation's biggest natural-disaster response.

The hurricanes took 117 lives in Florida, destroyed more than 25,000 homes and heavily damaged 4,600 more. Damage was estimated at \$42 billion, surpassing the \$34.9 billion caused in 1992 by Hurricane Andrew, the nation's single most costly storm.

Bush toured some of the most severely affected areas, beginning at Escambia County's new emergency operations center.

"This was a historic time," Bush said. "As a state we learned a lot about ourselves and it's important to reflect on that. I think Florida is a better place and a stronger place because of this."

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Hurricane Charley plowed into southwestern Florida in mid-August, and Frances, Ivan and Jeanne slammed the state in September. The only other time on record when four hurricanes hit one state in a year was Texas in 1886.

Escambia County Public Safety Director Janice Kilgore's announcement that the hurricane season was officially over drew a cheer as she introduced the governor, but nature does not always adhere to that schedule: Capping off the freakish year, Tropical Storm Otto formed on the last day of the season far in the central Atlantic, about 800 miles east of Bermuda. It posed no threat to land.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield urged people to begin planning now for the next hurricane season. "People that had a hurricane plan did better than those that did not," he said in Miami.

The center will release its prediction for the 2005 season on May 16, but Mayfield said it is likely that a trend of increasing activity will continue.

"We have had more tropical storms and more hurricanes since 1995 than any consecutive 10-year period on the record," Mayfield said.

In 2004, counting Otto, there were 15 named storms in the Atlantic region, including nine hurricanes, six of them major.

Photos of buildings with walls and roofs missing and storm-driven white sand covering roads, yards, homes and vehicles like huge snowdrifts flashed on a large screen behind Bush as he spoke. He praised emergency workers, neighbors who

helped neighbors and about 140,000 volunteers from around the world.

"It's important to take that creative compassion that I saw during the storms as people responded to that and use it in everyday life to improve people's lives," Bush said.

While the hurricane season may be over, the misery is not. In the Panhandle alone, about 1,000 residents are waiting for

mobile homes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The statewide total of people living in government trailers is expected to reach 15,000, Bush said.

Bush said he would push during a special legislative session for passage of tax relief for people who lost their homes and the elimination of multiple deductibles on insurance policies for those who had damage from more than one hurricane.



Matt Strahan, left, meteorologist in charge for the National Weather Service office in Key West, Fla., takes a swipe at a pinata symbolizing a tropical cyclone to mark the official end of the 2004 hurricane season Tuesday in Key West, Fla. The event was a facet of the 10-day Pirates in Paradise festival.

AP

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A martini that sparkles

Hotel offers \$10K piece of 'ice' in cocktail

BY JOSE MARTINEZ
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — At \$10,000, this cocktail is bound to leave you feeling more shaken than stirred.

The Martini on the Rock is the newest addition to the menu at the Algonquin Hotel. It comes with a single piece of ice — a diamond from the in-house jeweler.

"For now, it's just an item on the menu — unless 'she' can convince 'him,'" said Anthony Melchiorri, the hotel's general manager.

Not a single glass has been sold, but hotel officials hope the glittering gimmick catches the eye of a would-be bride or groom.

"This is a great lobby, where you can hang out and talk," Melchiorri said. "Or where you can ask someone to marry you."

The Algonquin once drew literary notables such as Dorothy Parker, whose witticisms included: "I

love a martini — but two at the most. Three, I'm under the table; four, I'm under the host."

"The martini is our trademark," Melchiorri said. The only catch for big spenders is that the drink order — and diamond purchase — need to be lined up three days in advance with Bader & Garrin, the hotel's jeweler.

The drink is the city's latest overpriced menu item, joining such notables as the \$1,000 frittata at Norma's in Le Parker Meridien hotel, the \$71 hamburger at the Old Homestead and the \$1,000 Golden Opuience Sundae at Serendipity 3. The martini's actual price depends on the size and cut of the rock, but its liquid ingredients — a mix of Belvedere vodka and Martini & Rossi vermouth — remain as classic as ever.

"We were laughing," said businessman Travis Hawton, 33, of Minneapolis, "about how someone will probably try to sneak one in on an expense account."

Mass. to scan fingerprints for gun sales

BOSTON — With a quick electronic scan of a fingerprint, gun shop owners in Massachusetts will know immediately if a customer is eligible to buy a weapon, using a system that officials say is the first of its kind in the nation.

The Massachusetts Instant Record Check System, developed over the past six years with nearly \$7 mil-

lion in information technology grant money, will be in place in all police departments and gun shops across the state by next summer. It is currently operating in three shops and about 140 police departments.

The system allows police and gun shop owners to have instant access to updated arrest warrant and restraining order information, which was not readily accessible under the old paperwork-intensive system.

From The Associated Press



AP photos

Austrian-born Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, left, and Canadian-born Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm would be eligible for the presidency should one of several measures introduced in Congress that propose extending eligibility for the presidency to certain immigrants become law.

Support grows to erase constitutional ban on foreign-born presidents

BY DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America's founding fathers envisioned a president born in the United States of America.

In 1787, they put it in writing — Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitu-

tion: "No person except a natural born citizen ... shall be eligible to the office of president."

More than 200 years later, in a diverse nation with more than 33 million immigrants, the push is on to alter that venerable document and allow naturalized U.S. citizens — Americans such as Arnold Schwarzenegger from Thal, Austria, and Jennifer Granholm from Vancouver, British Columbia — to become president.

The number of foreign-born in the United States is increasing at a rapid pace: more than 1 million a year between 2000 and 2004, according to a recent study. Those millions, however, aren't the ones some proponents of the constitutional change have in mind.

Several measures have been introduced in Congress, including a joint resolution by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican, and Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican, which proposes a constitutional amendment that would extend eligibility for the presidency to immigrants who have held U.S. citizenship for at least 20 years.

Schwarzenegger became a citizen in 1983, Granholm in 1980.

Prohibiting foreign-born Americans from occupying the White House is "hard to justify in a nation where there are so many people who have become naturalized citizens," said Mark V. Tushnet, a professor of constitutional law at the Georgetown University Law Center.

The odds are against proponents of the change, which would require two-thirds majority votes in the House and Senate, then approval by three-fourths of the states.

Part of the problem, according to proponents, is a post-Sept. 11, 2001, climate in which many Americans are wary of immigrants, even legal ones, and want to tighten immigration laws.

A recent CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll found that 67 percent opposed changing the Constitution to allow immigrants to be president. When half the poll sample was asked the same question with Schwarzenegger's name, opposition dropped slightly to 58 percent.

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US MILITARY SALES



IN THE WORLD

Protecting women focus of World AIDS Day

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
The Associated Press

GENEVA — From Armenia to Zambia, activists turned out by the thousands for World AIDS Day on Wednesday, singing in mighty cathedrals, lighting candles in city squares and playing sports.

The United Nations has dedicated this year's observance to improving protection for women and girls. Nearly half of the 39.4 million people infected with HIV worldwide are female.

"Prevention methods such as the ABC approach — Abstinence, Be faithful and use Condoms — are good, but not enough to protect women where gender inequality is pervasive," said Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS.

"We must be able to ensure that women can choose marriage, to decide when and with whom they have sex and to successfully negotiate condom use," Piot added.

As the day began in Asia, where the disease has claimed 540,000 lives this year, campaigners in Japan and South Korea handed out condoms. Thailand, Vietnam, and Bangladesh had marches.

In China, a rave visit by President Hu Jintao to AIDS patients in a hospital was televised.

In Pakistan, about 400 aid workers discussed how to empower women in a region where men usually have a dominant role in society.

At the forefront of the pandemic in southern Africa, red ribbons were tied to lamp posts and draped over buildings. Zambians gathered for a candlelight memorial service in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the capital, Lusaka.

Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of South Africa appealed for tolerance.

"HIV/AIDS is not God's punish-

ment of the wicked," Ndungane told a rally in Cape Town. "AIDS is a preventable, treatable and manageable disease — no more, no less."

Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika said he wants at least 1 million of his 11 million people to be tested for HIV by the end of next year so his government can determine how many need anti-retroviral treatment.

Eastern Europe, where AIDS figures have jumped since the collapse of the Soviet Union, joined in the observance. Events in Armenia included a concert with well-known local musical artists.

In the Croatian capital of Zagreb, activists handed out condoms and sold Christmas cards made by AIDS-infected children.

Portugal, which has one of the highest rates of new AIDS infections in western Europe, opened the new headquarters of an association to support AIDS patients.



Kenyan children hold flags to promote HIV/AIDS awareness at a public rally Wednesday in Nairobi, Kenya, for World AIDS Day. The National AIDS Council of Kenya warned that the AIDS situation is worsening in Kenya because of a lack of awareness about the dangers of unprotected sex.

Activists trick luxury restaurants

ROME — Anti-war activists in northern Italy have been indulging in a rather comfortable kind of protest, treating themselves to extravagant meals in top restaurants and leaving the bill unpaid.

Pretending that they were celebrating a baptism, almost 50 activists died Tuesday at the Da Celeste restaurant near Treviso in northeastern Italy, ordering several courses each and washing them down with five bottles of Moët & Chandon champagne, the owner told private TV channel Sky on Wednesday.

Celeste Tono said the unpaid bill came to around \$3,992. He said the group told him he was targeted for serving a lunch to guests at the NATO summit last month.

British fund-raiser nears end of trek

SYDNEY, Australia — A former British soccer player pedaled through Sydney's early morning traffic Wednesday as he neared the end of a 2,700-mile coast-to-coast odyssey on a penny-farthing bicycle. Leukemia survivor Lloyd Scott cycled from the west coast city of Perth to Sydney in 50 days, braving soaring temperatures, bumpy roads and even exploding truck tires.

He was due to complete his trip Thursday by taking his bike — with its giant front wheel and tiny back wheel — for a sightseeing tour of some of Sydney's most famous landmarks.

Scott is using the bike ride to raise money for a leukemia charity. He started the ride looking like British sleuth Sherlock Holmes in tweed clothes and a deerstalker hat — the clothes came from the same era as his 19th century bike.

City holds pageant to pick Santa Claus

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Can you imagine Santa Claus in a swimsuit? Luckily, the contestants in Hungary's National Santa Claus Beauty Pageant this weekend will get to keep their clothes on — and their beards, too.

The city of Nyíregyháza will hold its fifth beauty contest for Santas on Saturday, and so far 13 St. Nick's have signed up, hoping to win an assortment of goodies, including a holiday in Tunisia, luggage sets and a Dacia.

They'll face a tough panel of judges: local schoolchildren between the ages of 6 and 10.

Besides the style of their white beards and hair, Santas also are graded on their red outfits and must give a 3-4 minute performance — a song, a fairy tale, a poem — featuring their talents.

Some contestants rely solely on their own skills, while others bring along crews of Santa's helpers, including angels and elves, to impress the judges. While no contest rules don't exclude Santas with fake beards and wings, they stand little chance of winning.

"The kids seem to prefer Santas with their own beards and white hair," pageant organizer Bela Balogh said. "They take their roles on the jury very seriously."

Swiss conductor misses her own train

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Even employees of the famously punctual Swiss railroads can miss a train.

Last week, a train left the station at Aigle, in the French-speaking west of Switzerland, without its conductor and with its doors wide open. The Swiss railway company confirmed Tuesday.

The conductor, an unidentified woman, hailed a cab and was finally able to join the train at Bex — some 6 miles further down the track — where it had stopped to wait for her, the Swiss daily Le Matin reported.

From The Associated Press

Bush thanks Canadians for 9/11 help

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — President Bush declared Wednesday that both the United States and Canada have a vital interest in the success of democracy in Iraq and said "a new day of freedom, of hope and self-government is on the way."

"Our enemies have declared their intentions and so have we," Bush told an audience in Halifax, Nova Scotia. "Peaceful nations must keep the peace by going after the terrorists and disrupting their plans and cutting off their funding."

"Two years ago, we disagreed about the best course in Iraq," the president acknowledged. But he said that both Canada and the United States know what's at stake.

Bush, continuing a hemispheric fence-mending trip north of the U.S. border in a country where opposition to the U.S.-led war to oust Iraq's Saddam Hussein has been fierce, said that Washington and Ottawa now agree essentially about how to "go forward."

"There's only one way to deal with enemies who plot in secret," he said. "We must take the fight to them. We must be relentless and we must be steadfast in our duty to protect our people."

Bush also said that it is "cultural condescension" to think that democracy cannot work in the broader Middle East.

He praised Prime Minister Paul Martin as a strong leader and said he looked forward to a "strong partnership" with Canada in his second term.

Noting that some 33,000 passengers on diverted U.S. commercial flights got stuck in Canada in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he said, "Canadians came to the aid of men and women and children who were worried and confused with nowhere to eat and sleep."

"How does a person say thank you to a nation?" he said.

"Well, that's something a president can do. So let me say directly to the Canadian people... thank you for your kindness to us in an hour of need."

Bush said he believes the people of the United States and Canada will remain close, as they have over time, "beyond the words of politicians and the natural disagreements that national leaders will have."

Hundreds of people lined the roads to get a glimpse of Bush as his limousine and long trailing entourage made their way into Halifax on an overcast day. The vast majority displayed no feelings toward Bush and merely watched respectfully.

Ukraine opposition ends siege of capital

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko signed a deal Wednesday that obliged his supporters to lift their siege of government buildings, but he said demonstrators will stay in the streets until a deal is reached on a new vote.

After talks with the runoff's official declared winner, Viktor Yanukovich, Yushchenko proposed that a revote be held between the two candidates on Dec. 19 to resolve the crisis over the disputed balloting.

He rejected a government proposal to hold an entire new election, an idea that outgoing President Leonid Kuchma suggested a day earlier.

Earlier Wednesday, Ukraine's parliament voted to bring down

Yanukovich's government, pushing through a no-confidence measure.

Yushchenko urged his backers not to give up their massive demonstrations until a deal is reached on a new vote. Thousands clad in the candidate's orange campaign colors gathered in the capital under firewalls and listened to a rock band.

Under a deal Yushchenko signed after talks with Yanukovich, Kuchma and European envoys, the blockade that has paralyzed the government — surrounding the presidential administration and Cabinet in Kiev — must be lifted immediately.

It was not immediately clear whether the agreement extended to massive pro-Yushchenko protests in Kiev's central square, but Yushchenko said that his support-

ers wouldn't let up until the conflicting parties agree on terms for a new vote.

"Protests in the streets will of course continue," Yushchenko said after the talks at the Marinsky Palace presidential residence. "They would be lifted only after a date is set for a new election and changes introduced into the election law."

Yushchenko has refused to recognize the official runoff results, claiming widespread fraud. Hundreds of thousands of Yushchenko's supporters have flooded Kiev's streets and surrounded official buildings since the vote.

According to the compromise agreement, a group of lawyers would be convened to null over changes of Ukrainian law in a bid to resolve the crisis. Kuchma has said it would be difficult to settle without going beyond existing law.

Alexander the Great film upsets some Greeks

BY PARIS AYIOMAMITIS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Alexander the Great, who carved out a vast empire east of Greece before his death at age 32, is idolized in this nation as a symbol of its ancient glory.

No less than 29 streets in Athens are named after him.

So when Oliver Stone's new epic about the conqueror's life depicted him as a bisexual who has a fling with his childhood friend Hephaestion, the portrayal hit a raw nerve.

A group of 25 Greek lawyers has threatened to sue the movie's producers over what they describe as a distortion of history — but insist the protest is not aimed at gays.

"I want to stress we have nothing against gays or lesbians," said Yiannis Varnakos, the head of the lawyers' group.

"We would have reacted the same way if the issue didn't involve homosexuality," he said. "We just don't want a distortion of historical facts."

The lawyers are calling on the filmmakers, Warner Bros., to carry a disclaimer

that the movie is a fictional portrayal of Alexander's life.

On Tuesday, they withdrew a request to delay the movie's release in Greece, agreeing to suspend the action until they watch a preview screening of "Alexander" before it opens in Greece on Dec. 3.

Gay rights campaigners have condemned the lawyers' campaign, contending it is a clear case of homophobia disguised as a quest for historical truth.

In Stone's 173-minute film, Alexander has an intimate relationship with childhood friend and cavalry commander Hephaestion.

Historians say ancient Greek men often had sexual partners of either gender and many argue Alexander was no exception.

Stone's consultant on the movie, British historian Robert Lane Fox, wrote in his 1973 book, *Alexander the Great*: "Alexander was only defeated once, the Cynic philosophers said long after his death, and that was by Hephaestion's thighs."

Varnakos challenged Fox to explain his conclusions, since none of the sources of Alexander's contemporaries survive. Suggestions that Alexander had male lovers, he said, are based on accounts given more than 300 years after his death.



A statue of Alexander the Great stands in the northern Greek port city of Thessaloniki. The Oliver Stone movie, which opened in the United States on Nov. 24 and stars Colin Farrell, has drawn a protest from a group of Greek lawyers, angered at the portrayal of the legendary warrior king as bisexual.

Dalai Lama leads prayers at Buddhist monastery in Russia

BY SERGEI VENVAYSKY

The Associated Press

ARSHAN, Russia — Thousands of Buddhist pilgrims trekked to a temple in the southern republic of Kalmykia on Tuesday for prayers led by the Dalai Lama during his first visit to Russia in a decade.

The Buddhist spiritual leader

had been denied entry to Russia for years because of Moscow's concerns about potentially damaging its strategic relationship with Beijing. The Dalai Lama lives in exile in India and leads Tibetans who have resisted half a century of Chinese rule.

Russia had rejected visa requests for the Dalai Lama at least three times since his 1994 visit.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it granted the Dalai Lama a visa this year on the grounds that he limit his activities solely to pastoral purposes, and he told reporters his purpose was to advance "human values."

China expressed dismay over the visit.

"We cannot understand why Russia granted him permission to

visit, and we hope that Russia can strictly abide by ... relevant political agreements between the two sides," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhuo Qiyue.

The spiritual leader arrived Monday in Kalmykia, one of the largest centers of Buddhism in Russia some 1,000 miles south-east of Moscow. About 1 million of Russia's 144 million people are

Buddhists.

The Dalai Lama's visit "in no way means some kind of change in our position on Tibet, which is an inalienable part of China, and we fully support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Chinese People's Republic," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in Vientiane, Laos, on Monday.



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EU hopes to end Bosnia mission in three years

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union said Tuesday it hopes its new peacekeeping mission in Bosnia can be completed within three years and expressed confidence top war crimes suspects will be detained by then.

The EU, which takes over the peacekeeping role from NATO this week, said it expected fugitive Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic would be brought before the U.N. war crimes tribunal, despite NATO's failure to catch them during its nine-year mission.

"A period of three years is something that would be reasonable to think about" for the length of the mission the EU starts Thursday, said Pether Feith, the bloc's director of security and defense policy.

He said during a news conference the situation in Bosnia should have improved enough by then to allow the military side of the operation to be wrapped up, although the EU would continue with police assistance along with political and economic cooperation.

Asked if the EU military would leave while Karadzic and Mladic are still at large, Feith said, "I can-

not leave you with promises ... but I think it's highly unlikely."

The EU is taking on its biggest military operation with the 7,000-strong Bosnian mission. It is a major test of the EU's drive to develop a military arm, which was begun following the European bloc's failure to halt the ethnic fighting that ravaged Bosnia in the early 1990s.

"This is a large step for the EU," said British Gen. Sir John Reith, who will command the EU mission. The operation is "much larger and more complex" than the union's previous military deployments to Macedonia and Congo last year, he added.

NATO's mission, which started with 60,000 troops, has gradually been scaled down to 7,000 as the situation in Bosnia has stabilized. Most of the troops serving with NATO are European, and the main change on the ground will involve the replacement of around 1,000 U.S. troops, mostly with soldiers from Finland.

NATO will offer backup to the EU mission and will retain up to 350 soldiers in Sarajevo.

Separately, the United States will also maintain a small force in the northern city of Turin, including helicopters to help the hunt for suspected war criminals.

Inheritance claim

CA LOS ANGELES — The illegitimate son of a wealthy South Korean industrialist has filed a federal lawsuit claiming he was denied an inheritance after being given up for adoption in California 18 years ago.

Peter Roach, 26, sued his father's company, five half-siblings and others alleging fraud, negligence and emotional distress. He is seeking \$5 million, the Los Angeles Times reports.

Roach is the son of now-deceased industrialist Won Man Lee, founder of Kolon Industries Inc., and club hostess Mee Yeon Lee, whom he met in 1977 and took as a mistress for several years, the newspaper reported.

Kolon, a synthetic fibers and engineering plastics manufacturer, has annual sales of more than \$1 billion.

After Lee died in 1994, Roach's adopted parents were given \$100,000 of Roach's expenses on the condition they sign an agreement releasing Lee's heirs from any further financial obligations.

Roach later found the agreement, which had the businessman's signature on it.

Loggers protest law

ME MADISON — Loggers throughout Maine say they're worried that a law meant to curtail liquidation harvesting in the state's forests will make it difficult for smaller operations to find wood next year when it takes effect. The law, supported by the Department of Conservation, bans the purchase of land for the purpose of wholesale harvesting of trees without regard to long-term forest-management principles.

Horse upsets teach-in

FL LUTZ — Waiting for surgery, his arm broken, 5-year-old Michael Ruiz couldn't get angry at the 1,000-pound gelding that fell on him.

Michael was among about 125 Schwarzkopf Elementary School kindergartners for whom the usually serene Great American Teach-In got scary.

They were sitting around Attache, a 20-year-old American Saddlebred, when he got spooked, lurched forward, lost his footing and fell on his side.

As the horse scrambled to get up, the trainer rushed to get it under control and teachers quickly tended to the students. Afterwards, about a dozen students complained of bumps, bruises or other injuries.

Robbery in vain

NC RALEIGH — A robber's crime was foiled when he couldn't find anything to steal.

Just after closing, an intruder shot the lock off the door of a Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q restaurant. The man climbed in through the broken glass door and combed the fast-food restaurant for items to take, said police Lt. T.L. Earnhardt, but could not break into the cash register.

Employees who were still in the restaurant escaped out the back door. The man fled before police arrived.



Grandma faces trial

ME BANGOR — The grandmother of a Corinna man sentenced to 13 years in prison for burying 8 pounds of cocaine on her property has pleaded not guilty to drug trafficking.

Jeanne E. Rogers, 64, entered her plea in Penobscot County Superior Court. Rogers was arrested in connection with the drug trafficking operation her grandson, 25-year-old Jason Belmer, ran.

When police seized cocaine that was buried in Rogers' pool shed in September, Belmer fled and was the subject of a nationwide search for six weeks. He eluded police in Maine, Colorado and Kansas.

A trial date has not been set for Rogers, and details of her alleged involvement in her grandson's drug operation were not available.

Bus just too tall

NY NEW YORK — A tour bus that was four feet too tall to clear a highway overpass in New York City slammed into it, injuring some of the 49 passengers, authorities said.

Most injuries were minor, though two passengers were hospitalized — a boy with a crushed windpipe and a woman who suffered chest pains, the Fire Department said.

The accident happened as the bus from Canada was traveling



Ready for riding

Red Mountain Fox Hounds junior member Dana McWilliams, 12, tries to fix a stirrup as her mount munches on some fresh grass near Rousemont, N.C. She was one of about 30 riders who took part in the Red Mountain Fox Hounds hunt.

southbound on the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive in Manhattan.

Police said the driver, Yu Yuk Ho, ignored signs warning that vehicles higher than 9 feet 6 inches would not clear the overpass, a temporary structure for a construction project. The bus measured 13 feet 6 inches.

Ho, 56, was cited for driving an overweight vehicle, disobeying a sign and other infractions. Ho said he had driven that stretch of the FDR before and did not expect to encounter the overpass.

Blessed nuptials

WA TACOMA — There may not have been room at the inn, but they'd better make room at the altar.

Shortly after a performance of the Nativity at the Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma, Dan Larson, portraying Joseph, got down on one knee and asked Amanda Thaut, "Will you marry me?"

Thaut, who played Mary, quietly gasped, "Yes."

The audience at the Pantages Theater was stunned. One of the wise men pumped his fist in the air and the shepherds and angels could barely contain their enthusiasm.

"I started planning it more than a year ago," Larson, 25, said later. "I wanted to make it something very special. Every part of my life is better because of her."

Leadfoot truckers

KY PIKEVILLE — A state crackdown on overweight coal trucks is having a side effect — more trucks exceeding the speed limit.

Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement commissioner Greg Howard said trucks can go faster when they're not bogged down with overweight loads, and some truckers may be taking advantage of that to speed up to haul more loads each day.

"We are beginning to get some complaints on speed, and we're addressing those," Howard said. "Of course, speed is easier to enforce than weight limits."

Howard said the number of overweight trucks has been drastically reduced in eastern Kentucky since the crackdown began, based on the number of violations officers are seeing.

Suspected rock-thrower

ME WESTBROOK — A 16-year-old juvenile from Portland is believed to be the person who threw a rock from a Maine Turnpike overpass that cracked the windshield of a Maine State Police cruiser, injuring the trooper at the wheel, authorities said.

Trooper Duane Doughty was driving north at about 10 p.m. when the rock came crashing down from the Brighton Avenue overpass, said Stephen McCausland, spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Although the windshield did not shatter, Doughty was showered with glass fragments that struck his face and an eye. He was treated at Maine Medical Center for facial abrasions and was scheduled to see an ophthalmologist to determine the extent of any eye injuries, McCausland said.



Clowning around

A child dressed as a clown makes a face at parade watchers during the 32nd annual Children's Parade in downtown Dayton, Ohio.



Taking it all in

Jade Eltner watches members of the USA Ballet company run through a practice of their upcoming performance of "Twins the Night Before Christmas" at the Academy of Ballet in Alamogordo, N.M.



A canine Christmas

Baylee, a 3-year-old Pekinese-Pomeranian mix, sits for a portrait on Santa's lap at PetCo in Great Falls, Mont.



Preparing to leap

Fall Festival in Flint.

Ralph Arellano of Flint, Mich., waits to catch his granddaughter, Riley Arellano, 3, from the "Friendly Frog," during the Applewood Fall Festival in Flint.



Dinner invitation

Billy Kasprzycki of Alma, Ark., asks a white-fronted goose, "Do you want some bread?" Kasprzycki and his wife, Kristi, were feeding the waterfowl at City Park in Van Buren, Ark.



Chilly afternoon

Nayeli Holguin, right, pulls the hood of her coat over her face to use as a shield against the cold winds in El Paso, Texas. Nayeli and her mother, Tomasa, were waiting to board a bus.



Bringing holiday home

Six-year-old Nathaniel Syverson and his father, Kent, use a wagon to haul home their family's Christmas tree from a neighborhood tree lot in Eau Claire, Wis. Kent Syverson said the wagon tree transport has become a family tradition.

Lamp explodes, kills 1

WA KENT — A man who placed a lava lamp on a hot stovetop was killed when it exploded and sent a shard of glass into his heart, police said.

Philip Quinn, 24, was found dead in his trailer home by his parents.

"Why on earth he was heating a lava lamp on the stove, we don't know," Kent Police spokesman Paul Pesen said.

After the lamp exploded, Quinn apparently stumbled into his bedroom, where he died, authorities said.

Police found no evidence of drug or alcohol use.

Drag racing death

VT WESTMINSTER — A Putney man who police said was drag racing lost control of his car and was killed along with two others in a head-on collision.

Tyler Gilbert, 23, was chasing another car when he crossed the center line and struck a car driven by Laura Sears Davis, 35, of Dummerston, according to police.

Davis and a passenger, Brian Davis, 46, were killed as a result, police said. A 3-year-old girl and 5-year-old girl, whom police described as the Daveses' nieces, were also in the car.

Vermont State Police said they suspect alcohol contributed to the crash. Senior Trooper Jonathan Graham is continuing the investigation and awaiting autopsy results.

Studying freshman life

MD ANNAPOLIS — In his first weeks as a freshman at St. John's College, Roger "Rusty" Martin missed two days of crew practice. He feared the coach might cut him from the team, but he had legitimate reasons: CT scans and a checkup with his oncologist.

The 61-year-old was four years removed from a battle with melanoma that nearly killed him.

Martin, the president of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., is the oldest freshman at St. John's — by four decades.

Martin went back to school this year because he wanted to study the freshman experience in a way that would be impossible from the president's office. So he took a semester-long sabbatical from the top of the academic food chain to dwell at the bottom.

Reasons for foster care

VA RICHMOND — A study shows that thousands of parents have placed their children in Virginia foster care because they want their kids to get mental-health services that would be otherwise unaffordable.

The report commissioned by the General Assembly shows that 2,008 of the 8,702 children in foster care — or nearly one-quarter — appeared "to be in custody to obtain treatment." The study, which used data from the Department of Social Services, is based on children in foster care as of June 1.

The report's recommendations to the General Assembly include increasing funding for the Comprehensive Services Act, which is designed to provide money for

mental health services for children, and helping families access private insurance for mental health services.

Five killed in collision

IL MARION — Five people were killed in an accident on Interstate 57 near Marion, state police said. A northbound van from Chicago carrying a family of four crossed the median and struck a vehicle head-on, killing everyone in the van and the driver of the vehicle. The accident closed the interstate for about five hours. A third vehicle that was behind the second one also was hit. The six people in that car were treated for minor injuries at the scene, Minor said.

College alcohol ban

WA SEATTLE — Students at Seattle Pacific University voted overwhelmingly last spring to ease the 113-year-old Christian school's alcohol ban, but administrators still don't plan to do so.

The school bans any consumption by students or faculty, even off campus. Officials say the ban promotes a healthy lifestyle. Many students say the Bible does not prohibit moderate drinking.

Health insurance guide

NY ALBANY — A guide for consumers and physicians to maximize health insurance coverage for the growing problem of obesity is scheduled for release.

"Focus On: Overcoming Obesity" will be available online through the state Attorney General's Office and was based on complaints and concerns from consumers to the office. Many consumers simply give up trying to navigate the forms and restrictions even if their health plan covers obesity treatment from counseling and drugs to gastric bypass surgery, said Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

Elephant retirement

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The lone Asian elephant at the San Francisco Zoo was moved to a sanctuary for abandoned and abused performing animals in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

But the American Zoo and Aquarium Association says it hasn't accredited the refuge for 38-year-old Tinkerbell, and may refuse to renew the zoo's accreditation.

Victims reimbursed

MA BOSTON — The Clients' Security Board, a little-known arm of the state Supreme Judicial Court, returned more than \$2.4 million to 99 Massachusetts residents who were victimized by bad lawyers, the CSB reported.

The \$2.4 million awarded this year resulted from 26 lawyers who defrauded clients.

Formed 30 years ago, the seven attorneys who serve five-year terms on the CSB volunteer their time to reimburse eligible clients who have been defrauded. The 47,500 lawyers practicing in the Bay State contribute \$40 of their yearly \$220 registration fee to fund the CSB.

Stories and photos from wire services

Stripes Travel

Tangy Tangier

Moroccan city adds spice to visitors' lives

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

The jars in front of Sai'd Khayat are full of miracles. At least, that is what he claims in his animated 15-minute medicine show before a crowd of shoppers at Tangier, Morocco.

The oils, herbs, spices, powders and potions packed into the clear containers are advertised to cure everything from migraine headaches to a slumping libido. "And this," he says holding a finely ground orange mixture, "is good on meat or chicken."

There is likely something for everyone on the table, which is why spices from Morocco might be perfect gift for the aspiring chef on your list.

In many Moroccan cities, hidden in the twisting streets and alleys of the medina, visitors often can find shops that offer an array of spices, oils and medicinal herbs.

Buyers can also find spices poured into cone-shaped piles by street vendors.

If you cannot get to Morocco, many spices are available in grocery stores and online. But it is much cheaper to buy Moroccan

spices in a place like Tangier. And it is more entertaining.

In the heart of the city's shopping district, Khayat gives a quick rundown of the contents of each container in several languages, depending on the audience. The spice shop in Tangier is the final stop for many tourists on one-day trips to the city from southern Spain.

The walls of the store are lined with dozens of jars of different colorful powders, oils, leaves and seeds.

Khayat, wearing a white lab coat, stands in front of a table with about two dozen jars of different sizes. Although he tries to educate the group about the contents of every jar, he is more amusing than enlightening.

Five minutes into his spiel, he sounds like a traveling salesman from the old vaudeville days. His proclamations about the powers of some of the substances sound dubious, but he seems to know his subject.

He peddles oil that can rub away arthritis; a black, mint mixture that eliminates snoring if sniffed; and a liquid that wards off mosquitoes in a marshland. The next jar he passes around could take care of that nagging toothache. Another is alleged to be an aphrodisiac.

At least, that is what he claims. While the elixirs spice shops sell might not do everything or anything the vendors declare, there is no questioning the legitimate power of the culinary spices they offer. Moroccan spices are renowned around the world for giving food an extra kick.

Cumin and saffron are two of the most popular Moroccan



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Sai'd Khayat talks about the different spices, oils and herbs sold at a spice shop in Tangier, Morocco.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



Women sell produce on the side of a downtown street in Tangier. Spices of all kinds are found in shops and at market stands spread throughout the city.

can exports.

Cumin is an ancient spice that originated in Egypt. The seeds are from a plant in the parsley family. It has a strong aroma and a sharp taste. Mexican dishes such as enchiladas often use it.

The smell of cumin dominates the streets of the medina in Morocco because it is such a popular ingredient among food vendors and restaurants. The spice is often on the Moroccan dinner table next to the salt and pepper. Saffron typically comes in orange-red threads or ground into a powder. It has a slightly sweet smell and gives rice its yellow color in dishes such as paella.

It is the world's most expensive spice, but buyers can get it much cheaper in Morocco or Spain. In the United States, saffron can cost 10 times what it is sold for in Tangier. One ounce can cost more than \$35.

The reason it is so expensive is that it can take as many

as 250,000 handpicked purple saffron crocus flowers to make one pound.

The good thing for thrifty chefs is that most recipes do not call for a lot of saffron. In fact, too much could make a person sick.

Buyers beware: Some sellers like to cut saffron powder with other substances to boost the weight. One easy tip is that saffron should be bright red and not contain any yellow parts. Yellow saffron is bogus.

At the spice shop in Tangier, Khayat sells "real" saffron.

At least, that is what he claims.

The blend of 32 spices seems to be the better buy.

"What's it good on?" he is asked.

"Everything," he says.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estrpines.osd.mil

If you go

Numerous ferry services operate from Algeciras, Spain, to Tangier, Morocco.

It's best to have a ticket before you arrive.

The ride takes about 70 minutes and costs about \$50 round trip.

For schedules and reservations: (+34) (0) 956-68-18-30, www.frs.es/eng/index.htm.

For information on Morocco: www.tourism-in-morocco.com.

— The Washington Post

Christmas Markets

AUSTRIA

Austrian National Tourist Office

Web site: www.austria-tourism.at

BURGENLAND REGION

Breitenbrunn: Dec. 3-5 and 17-19

Eisenstadt: Through Dec. 24

Halbturn: Saturdays and Sundays, through Dec. 12 and Dec. 8

Lockenhaus: Through Dec. 12

Purbach: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 3-12

CARINTHIA REGION

Gmünd: Dec. 2-24 with children's Advent Dec. 4

Klagenfurt: Through Dec. 24

Spittal: Through Dec. 24

Velden: Through Dec. 21

Villach: Through Dec. 24

UPPER AUSTRIA REGION

Linz: Through Dec. 24

Steyr: Advent weekends

Unterweissenbach: Advent weekends

Wolfsgraben: Through Dec. 19

SALZBURGERLAND

Salzburg: Through Dec. 24 in city center and Mirabel Square

Obertorf: Through Dec. 31

St. Leonhard near Grödig: Saturdays and Sundays Through Dec. 19

Koppl-Guggenthal: Saturdays and Sundays Through Dec. 19

STYRIA

Kornberg Castle-Feldbach: Through Dec. 23

Marjale: Through Dec. 19

Aflenz-Resort Area: Through Dec. 24

Graz: Through Dec. 24

Farrach Castle-Zeltweg: Dec. 4-8

TYROL

Innsbruck: Dec. 19-24

Seefeld: Through Dec. 24

Rattenberg: Dec. 4, 12 and 18

Mayrhofen: Dec. 17-19

Hall in Tyrol: Through Dec. 24

Imst: Through Dec. 23

Kufstein: Advent weekends

Plangross St. Leonhard: Through Dec. 24

VORARLBERG REGION

Dornbirn: Through Dec. 23

Schwazbach: Through Dec. 19

Feldkirch: Through Dec. 24

Dornbirn: Through Dec. 23

VIENNA

Vienna Rathaus Park: Through Dec. 24

Spittelberg: Through Dec. 23

Schönbrunn Through Dec. 26

Freyung Through Dec. 23

BELGIUM

Web site: www.visitbelgium.com

Antwerp: Dec. 10-23

Brussels: Marche aux Poissons and Place St. Catherine, Dec. 3-Jan. 2

Brugge: Through Jan. 2

Ghent: Dec. 10-19

Leuven: Dec. 8-12

Liège: Dec. 3-30

Mechelein: Dec. 17-19



Courtesy Vienna Tourist Board

Lights twinkle at a Christmas market held at city hall in Vienna, Austria.

Uccle: Dec. 3-5

Tubize: Dec. 11-19

CZECH REPUBLIC

Web site: www.cccr.info.cz

Prague: Dec. 4-Jan. 6

DENMARK

Web site: www.visitdenmark.com

Århus: Christmas in Old Town, through Dec. 23

Copenhagen: Tivoli Gardens through Dec. 23

Odense: Dec. 4-5 and 11-12

ENGLAND

Web site: www.visitbritain.com

Bath: Dec. 2-12

Lincoln: Dec. 2-5

Sandwich: Dec. 4

Woodley: Dec. 5

Warwick Castle: Dec. 11-Jan. 3 Medieval Fair. (Admission charged)

ESTONIA

Web site: www.visitestonia.com

Tallinn: Through Dec. 26, Raekoja plats

Pärnu: Raekoja Dec. 4, 11 and 18

FRANCE

Web site: www.franceguide.com

Mulhouse: Christmas market, Through Dec. 29

Reims: Christmas village, Through Dec. 24

Calais: Dec. 4-5, with parade 12 Dec.

Boulogne-sur-Mer: Dec. 11-12

Brux: Dec. 4-5

Dijon: Dec. 3-14

Nancy: Dec. 6

Provins: Dec. 6-7

La Ferté St. Aubin: Throughout

Laon: Dec. 10-12

Colmar: Christmas market, Through Dec. 24

Riquewihr: Dec. 4-19

Kaysersberg: Through Dec. 23

Friday, Saturdays and Sundays

Lyon: Through Dec. 24

Grenoble: Dec. 4-24

Metz: Through Dec. 24

Nancy: Through Dec. 24

Caen: Through Dec. 24

Amiens: Through Dec. 27

Rouen: Through Dec. 28

Toulouse: throughout December

Lille: Through Dec. 30

Troyes: Dec. 10-31

Nice: Dec. 10-Jan. 2

Saverne: Through Dec. 24

Selestat: Through Dec. 24

Strasbourg: Through Dec. 31

Munster: Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19

Brest: Through Dec. 24

Clermont-Ferrand: Dec. 2-26

Montbéliard: Through Dec. 24

Lorraine: Through 31 with special St. Nicholas procession on Dec. 6

Besancon: Dec. 11-12

Ploernel: Dec. 4-5

GERMANY

Web site: www.germany-tourism.de

Aachen: Through Dec. 20

Amberg: Through Dec. 23

Annaberg: Through Dec. 19

Aschaff: Through Dec. 24

Aschaffenburg: Through Dec. 22

Augsburg: Through Dec. 24

Baden-Baden: Through Dec. 21

Bad Kreuznach: Through Dec. 5

Bad Mergentheim: Dec. 16-19

Bad Münster: Through Dec. 12

Saturdays and Sundays

Bad Tölz: Through Dec. 24

Bad Windsberg: Through Dec. 14

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Bayreuth: Through Dec. 23

Bamberg: Through Dec. 23

Berlin: Markets throughout the city, including: Center, through Dec. 24

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, through

Dec. 26; Reinickendorf, through

Dec. 24; Spandau, through Dec. 23

Bernkastel-Kues: Through Dec. 22

Bonn: Through Dec. 23

Braunschweig: through Dec. 28

Bremen: Through Dec. 23

Büdingen: Dec. 10-12

Chemnitz: Through Dec. 21

Cochern: Through Dec. 19

Cologne: Markets throughout city, including:

Rheinpromenade, through Dec. 21;

medieval market at the Chocolate

museum, through Dec. 23;

by cathedral, through Dec. 23

Darmstadt: through Dec. 23

Deidesheim: Through Dec. 19,

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Dinkelsbühl: through Dec. 21

Dortmund: through Dec. 23

Dresden: through Dec. 24

Düsseldorf: through Dec. 23

Erfurt: Through Dec. 22

Essen: through Dec. 23

Esslingen: through Dec. 22

Feuchtwangen: Through Dec. 18

Frankfurt: through Dec. 22

Freiburg im Breisgau: through

Dec. 23

Freudenstadt: Dec. 3-12

Fulda: Through Dec. 20

Gaggenau: Through Dec. 4

Giessen: Through Dec. 23

Hamburg: through Dec. 23

Hana: Through Dec. 22

Heidelberg: through Dec. 22

Heilbronn: through Dec. 22

Kaiserslautern: Through Dec. 22

Karlsruhe: through Dec. 23

Kirchheim unter Teck: Dec. 9-19

Koblenz: through Dec. 22

Ladenburg: Fridays, Saturdays

and Sundays Dec. 3-19

Landsberg am Lech: Through

Dec. 12

Leipzig: through Dec. 22

Ludwigsburg: through Dec. 20

Magdeburg: through Dec. 23

About this list

This year's Christmas market calendar was compiled by Stripes Calendar Editor Karen Bradbury from information from tourist offices and Web sites. It is as accurate as possible given the information available at press time. It will be updated in the travel section throughout the holiday season. Special thanks to Elke Herberger, public affairs specialist at U.S. Army Europe headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, for her assistance with the German market listings. Please e-mail corrections or additions to travel@mail.strips.esd.mil.

Mainz: through Dec. 23

Mannheim: through Dec. 23

Memmingen: Dec. 4-22

Michelstadt: Through Dec. 19

Miltenberg: Dec. 3-5, 10-12 and

17-19

Münich: Through Dec. 24, markets

throughout the city

Nuremberg: Through Dec. 24

Regensburg an der Donau:

through Dec. 23

Reutlingen: Through Dec. 19

Rosenheim: Through Dec. 23

Rostock: through Dec. 22

Rothenburg ob der Tauber:

Through Dec. 22

Rüdesheim am Rhein: through

Dec. 19, Wednesdays and Sundays

Saarbrücken: through Dec. 23

Schweinfurt: through Dec. 22

Speyer: through Dec. 22

Straubing an der Donau: Through

Dec. 23

Stuttgart: Through Dec. 23

Tauberbischofsheim: Dec. 3-5,

10-12, 17-19

Trier: through Dec. 22

Ulm: Through Dec. 22

Wiesbaden: through Dec. 23

Wülfbüttel: through Dec. 22

Würzburg: Through Dec. 23

ITALY

Website: www.italiantourism.com

Bolzano: Through Dec. 23

Bressanone: Dec. 2-Jan. 8

Merano: Dec. 3-Jan. 7

Rome: Dec. 8 through Jan. 6,

Piazza Navona.

Venice: Dec. 6-24, Santo Stefano

Square

LUXEMBOURG

Web site: www.luxembourg-city.lu

Luxembourg City: Through Dec.

24, Place d'Almes

Esch-sur-Alzette: Dec. 3-24,

Place de la Résistance

Vandern: Dec. 18-19 Medieval

Christmas Market at the castle

SEE MARKETS, PAGE 28

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Jerusalem Gate guards the entrance to the old town and the Christmas market of Büdingen.

Beautiful Büdingen



Looking like leftovers from Easter, colorful eggs highlight a chestnut tree at Büdingen's Christmas market.

Quaint town offers quintessential Christmas market

BY PETER JAEGER

Stars and Stripes

The smells of bratwurst, pine and *Glühwein*. The sounds of Christmas carols performed by a brass band.

The sight of illuminated half-timbered houses. Lights and laughter. Children's glowing eyes. Christmas bock beer and homemade cookies.

Büdingen, Germany, has all the ingredients of a typical German Christmas market — Christmas presents and decorations, *Glühwein* and wurst, Santas and angels, Christmas tunes and merry-go-rounds, and an attractive setting in the old town.

The old, medieval town, about 25 miles northeast of Frankfurt, is one of the most attractive smaller communities in the state of Hessen. It is a perfect place for a Christmas market, set amid its many marvellous buildings from the 15th and 16th centuries. Its ancient, walled center is 700 years old, like the castle dominating the town.

The castle, owned by the dukes of Ysenburg and Büdingen, has always been a popular site for its own Christmas market next to the public market of Büdingen. Held in the courtyard and former stables of the castle, the duke's Christmas market is a well-received combination of medieval crafts, homemade food and brew, and colorful presents.

Unfortunately, this year the duke is taking a rest and aim-



The warm colors of red and orange of a fire echo the sunset colors market eat "Flammkuchen" in the courtyard of the castle.

ing for a new concept for the market. For 2005, the duke and his wife are planning a Christmas market with classier gifts, special events and a more aristocratic atmosphere.

But don't worry. The fairy-tale atmosphere of Büdingen's



PHOTOS BY PETER JAEGER

on the walls of Büdingen's castle. Visitors of the Christmas

old town and its Christmas market is still worth a weekend trip.

E-mail Peter Jaeger at: jaegerp@mail.estripes.osd.mil.



Holiday helpers man a stand selling homemade farm products.



The duke's medieval castle provides the backdrop for the bustling Christmas market crowd.

If you go to Büdingen

WHEN: Büdingen's Christmas market is Dec. 10-12 this year.

FOOD: One of the specialties of both the main market and the duke's market is a bratwurst made from wild boar.

HOW TO GET THERE: To drive to Büdingen, follow Autobahn 3 past Frankfurt, direction Nürnberg. Exit at the Hanauer Kreuz and follow Route 43A past Hanau onto Autobahn 66 toward Fulda. Leave 66 at Exit 42 for Route 457, about 10 miles to Büdingen. The road leads to Büdingen. The old town is pedestrian-only, and parking is available around the edges.

INFORMATION: Call or write: Touristik Center Büdingen, Marktplatz 9, 63654 Büdingen; telephone (+49) (0) 6042-9637-0. Its fax number is (+49) (0) 6042-9637-10, and its e-mail address is info@buedingen-touristik.de.



Stars and Stripes



A local hunter demonstrates the finger-licking taste of his brew, "Glühwein."

— PETER JAEGER

Calendar

COMPILED BY JAYNE TRAENDLY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are the latest information available at press time, but are subject to change. It's wise to check with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event before traveling.

DENMARK

Telephone: (45) 33/111-325

Fax: (45) 33/93-4969

E-mail: dt@dt.dk

www.visitdenmark.com

COPENHAGEN: Opening of the city opera, **Jan. 15.**

ENGLAND

Telephone: (44) 81/846-9000

Fax: (44) 171/563-0302

www.visitbritain.com

LONDON: New Year's Day parade, **Jan. 1.**

FRANCE

Telephone: (33) 1/49-52-53-54

Fax: (33) 1/49-52-53-00

www.francetourism.com

METZ: Flea market, **Dec. 12** (7 a.m.-p.m.), **Dec. 18.** Open 6 a.m.-noon.

PARIS: International nautical fair, **Dec. 3-13.**

DUNKERQUE: Carnival, **Jan. 15-26.**

NICE: Carnival, **Feb. 11-27.**

GERMANY

Telephone: (49) 69/97464-0

Fax: (49) 69/751-903

www.germany-tourism.de

HAMBURG: Dorn, **through Dec. 5.**

MUNICH: Tollwood, **through Dec. 31.**

KÖLN: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7.**

DÜSSELDORF: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7.**

MAINZ: Carnival parade, **Feb. 7.**

THE NETHERLANDS

Telephone: (31) 70/370-5705

Fax: (31) 70/320-1654

E-mail: info@rbl.nl

www.holland.com/uk

AMSTERDAM: PAN, Art and antique fair, **through Dec. 12.**

GOUDA: Gouda by candlelight, **Dec. 14.**

DEVENTER: Dickens festival, **Dec. 18-19.**

ROTTERDAM: International film festival, **Dec. 23-Jan. 2.**

SCOTLAND

Telephone: (44) 1463/71-6996

Fax: (44) 1463/71-7266

www.visitscotland.com

EDINBURGH: Hogmanay, **Dec. 29-Jan. 1.**

CRIEFF: Cornie Hogmanay flam-beaux procession, **Dec. 31-Jan. 1.**

SPAIN

Telephone: (34) 91/411-401-6011

Fax: (34) 91/564-4988

www.tourspain.co.uk

BARCELONA: Jazz festival,

through Dec. 15.

www.the-project.net

SWITZERLAND

Telephone: (41) 1/288-1111

Fax: (41) 1/288-1205

www.switzerlandtourism.ch

KUSSNACHT AM RIGI: Clausjagen, **Dec. 13.**

GENEVE: Fête de l'Escadale, **Dec. 11-12.**

WALES

Telephone: (44) 1222/49-9909

Fax: (44) 1222/48-5031

LLANWRITTDY WELLS: New Year walk in, **Dec. 31-Jan. 1.**

Best bet for the week

NETHERLANDS: Art and antiques lovers won't want to miss pAn Amsterdam, Holland's largest national art and antiques fair, which runs Sunday through Dec. 12.

Categories include paintings, drawings and prints; furniture; jewelry and miniatures; sculpture; silver; modern and contemporary art; 20th-century decorative art; primitive and pre-Columbian art; oriental and Asian art; medieval sculpture; classical antiquities, Egyptian works of

art, coins and medals; books, manuscripts and maps; textiles, carpets and tapestries; clocks and barometers; porcelain and ceramics; and arms and armor.

The fair is open Sunday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets cost 12.50 euros for adults, 5 euros for children 12 to 18 years old. For details, go to www.pan-amsterdam.nl

— JAYNE TRAENDLY

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Russia 1 week \$ 1290
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Thanksgiving in
Istanbul \$ 329up

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BY JAYNE TRAENDLY

Stripes Travel researcher

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Unsure about trying a Danish recipe without a recommendation? Try the Danish Tourist Board's newest online TV channel "Who doesn't like a Danish?"

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The site includes recipes, too. Go to www.visitdenmark.com/danish.

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alpine snow conditions

as of November 29, 2004 *All measurements in centimeters*

Snow Report	Snow Date	Last Snow	Lifts Open	General Information
Carvins, IT	10/05	Nov 29	18	19/20
Engelberg, SW	42/0	Nov 19	—	2/25
Garmisch, GER	80/0	Nov 23	—	3/24
Gratvald, SW	307/20	Nov 20	—	6/03
Hinterhohe, AUS	120/5	Nov 20	—	15/21
Kaprun, AUS	117/6	Nov 24	5	12/24
Karwendel, AUS	90/0	Nov 20	—	5/9
Kleinwiltner, AUS	117/50	Nov 24	—	14/28
Les Oudlets, SW	30/0	Nov 10	—	6/06
Malbail Glacier, AUS	119/50	Nov 13	—	6/19
Reinhold, AUS	70/0	Nov 20	—	12/24
Passio Tonde, IT	40/0	Nov 12	—	3/15
Pizol, AUS	90/10	Nov 20	3	7/7
Sass Fiem, SW	165/6	Nov 19	—	7/22
Sölden, AUS	80/0	Nov 20	—	9/34
Tignes, FR	55/10	Nov 29	2	10/14
Val Senales, IT	70/50	Nov 20	—	7/12
Val Thorens, FR	20/11	Nov 21	—	5/13
Zill Air See, AUS	38/5	Nov 21	—	6/28
Zermatt, SW	167/6	Nov 19	—	12/30

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Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule

Kaiserslautern Patrick Barneck, 489-7751/8621-536-7751
Dec. 11 & Dec. 18 Ski Express
Dec. 17-19 Loax-Flims, Switzerland

Mannheim Taylor Barneck, 381-7215/8621-730-7215
Dec. 18 Skiing & Snowboarding
Engelberg, Switzerland

Heidelberg Patrick Henry Vilgas, 388-9382/8621-338-9382
Jan. 8 Ski Trip, Engelberg, Switzerland

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Volksmarch

There are those walks that come around each year that are classified as "must do" events. The Metz Illuminée is one such event. For the past few years, more than 11,000 marchers have hit the trail on this one evening ... and those are just the folks who purchased start cards. Does that give you any idea how popular this event is?



- **Porte Allemande** (German Gate) — Resembles a medieval castle with a bridge, towers and 13th century gate

- **Cathédrale St-Étienne** — Illuminated on a hill above the Moselle is one of France's tallest cathedrals. You'll see the light shining through the stained-glass windows. It's truly impressive! (Closes at 6 p.m.)

- **Place St. Louis** — A large Christmas market with 90 wooden huts full of food and items for sale. Musical performances take place each night and there's a children's carousel.

- **Esplanade** — A beautiful garden in which you'll find a smaller Christmas market with wooden huts, a beer tent, children's carousel, outdoor ice skating rink and an evening fireworks display.

Here are a few tips to make your illuminated trip through Metz even more pleasant:

- Even though it's a "torch" walk (torches are for sale at the start), stick with flashlights because you will spend so much time walking in the city.

- Think twice about taking a stroller. Crowded Christmas market, cobblestone roads, bone-jarring experience for the little one ... need I say more?

- This event is just too crowded for the four-legged family member; he's likely to be stepped on, tripped over and injured. Besides, where will Fido "go" on a city walk? Leave the dog at home!

- Don't wear your best shoes for this event. If it's raining, and part of the trail is along the waterway, you and your shoes will get messy.

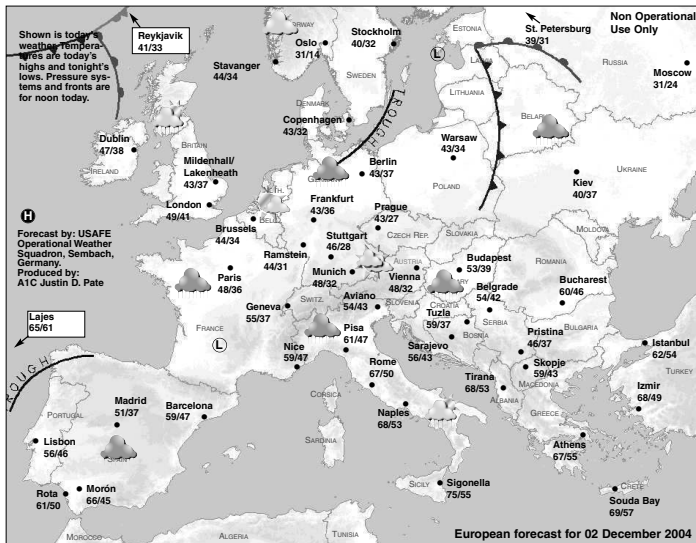
- Finally, don't forget to dress warmly and in layers for the colder evening hours.

The event begins at the Complexe Sportif Saint Symphorien. Arrive early as parking will be extremely limited; the club will expect between 60 and 70 busloads of volksmarchers for the event.

Even though it may seem a little daunting, not to mention crowded, venture out and join your fellow marchers in Metz this Saturday: this is one event you don't

Lists come from brochures of events sanctioned by the International Volkssportverband (International Federation of Popular Sports). These walks are near U.S. military installations. More extensive lists are available at the IVV Web site: www.ivv.org.

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
Austria						
Krengbachtal bei Wels	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	F	10	Maschinenhalle	Angel figurine	NW of Wels
France						
Herrlheim	Sun 0800-1400	F	10	Maison des Sports	No award	SE of Haguenau
Metz	Sat 1500-2030	F	10	Complexe Sportif	No award	Follow signs
Germany						
Berlin	Sun 0800-1100	BFX	5 & 10	Ev. Johannes-Stift	B-medal	NDS, Schönwalder Allee
Göllsdorf	Sat 1000-1400, Sun 0800-1300	F	5 & 10	Turn- u. Festhalle	Snowman	BWN, NE of Ulm
Sat 0800-1300, Sun 0700-1300	F	6 & 10	Mehrzweckhalle	Anniversary clock	B-medal	NRW, NE of Oplde
Holthausen	Sat 1300-1530	BFX	5 & 11	Schützenhalle	B-medal	NRW, NE of Oplde
Holthausen	Sat 1300-1430	BFX	16	Schützenhalle	B-medal	NRW, NE of Oplde
Satt	Sat 1700-1830	BFX	5	Schützenhalle	B-medal	NRW, NE of Oplde
Hüttigheim	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	BFX	5, 10, 20	Illtalhalle	Christmas plate	SAR, N of Saarbrücken
Rückelheim	Sun 0800-1300	BFX	6 & 10	Fest u. Sporthalle	B-medal	HRF, SE of Stadelländchen
Schwesheim	Sat 0800-1300	BFPX	6 & 11	Sportheim	B-medal	FRU, S of Schweinfurt
Wagging am See	Sun 0800-1300	F	5 & 10	Vereinsheim	No award	MOB, SE of Traunrutt
Winnenden-Höfen	Sun 0800-1400	F	5 & 10	Gemeindehalle	B-medal	WBN, NE of Stuttgart
Wintersbach-Pfalz	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	BFT	6 & 10	Halle	Christmas tea mug	RP, NW of Bad
Kreuznach						
Italy						
Bolzano Vicentino	Sun 0800-0900	F	6, 10, 20	Plaza front of church	No award	NE of Vicenza
Colle di Pinzano	Sun 0900-1000	F	6, 12, 16	Central Plaza	Souvenir	NE of Aviano
Orgiano	Wed 0800-0900	F	5, 15, 30	By school "Piaveve"	Wife, honey or food	SW of Vicenza
Pavia	Wed 0800-0900	F	6 & 13	See misc. notes	Bottle of wine	S of Milano
Pavia	Wed 0800-0900	F	21, 25, 37	See misc. notes	Bottle of wine	S of Milano
Pordenone	Wed 0800-0900	F	5 & 10	Plaza Carderari	Souvenir	S of Aviano AB
Pordenone	Wed 0800-0900	F	21 & 28	Plaza Carderari	Souvenir	S of Aviano AB
Prato Branco	Sun 0900	F	5, 7, 11, 17	Plaza Umberto	1/5 liter glass	SW of Treviso
Luxembourg						
Itzig (Izeg)	Sun 0700-1400	DF	5 & 10	Sportzentrum	Patch	SE of Luxembourg city
Netherlands						
Meers	Sun 0800-1400	-	7, 15, 22	Café de Villa	Sticker	N of Maastricht
Switzerland						
Wil	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	-	5 & 10	Berufsschule	Stuffed animal	W of St. Gallen
United Kingdom						
Conisbrough	Sun 0930	-	5 & 15	Hill Top Hotel	No award	SW of Doncaster
Old	Sun 1000	-	10 & 20	White Horse	No award	N of Northampton
Wendling	Sun 0800-1000	-	5 & 10	112 County Road	No award	Southern
Saffron Walden	Sun 0900	-	10 & 20	Swan Meadow Car Park	No award	SE of Cambridge
GENERAL NOTES:						
B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)	D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall	P - Music at start hall	T - Evening/Night walk, carry a torch	lasts	Y - Young-Walkers-Tour or Bambini-LiGe event	
C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points	F - Free refreshment at control points	X - Award available while supply				
GERMAN STATE AND REGION CODES:						
BWN - Baden-Württemberg (Nord)	ken	FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Fran-	NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin	SAR - Saarland		
BVG - Baden-Württemberg (Süd)	ken)	NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen	NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen	SCH - Schwaben		
FRU - Oberfranken (Upper Fran-	ken)	NDB - Niedersachsen	NDB - Niedersachsen	SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Ham-		
ken)	HE - Hessen	OP - Oberpfalz	OP - Oberpfalz	burg		
FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Fran-	ken)	MB - München-Oberbayern	RP - Rheinland-Pfalz	THS - Thüringen/Sachsen		



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 40s, lows in the mid to upper 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the 40s to, lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s, lows in the upper 30s.

France: Cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in northern portion in the upper 40s, lows in the mid 30s. Highs in the southern portion in the upper 50s, lows in the upper 30s to upper 40s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the low 40s, lows in the low to mid 30s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s, lows in the upper 20s to low 30s.

Hungary: Cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the low 50s, lows in the upper 30s.

Northern Italy: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low 50s, lows in the low 40s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the upper 60s, lows in the 50s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the upper 40s to low 50s, lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Norway: Partly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs in the low 30s, lows in the mid 20s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 50s to mid 60s, upper 30s to upper 40s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s, lows in the upper 30s to low 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://www.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad) 5:41am
Sunrise (Frankfurt) 8:04am
Sunset (Baghdad) 3:56pm
Sunset (Frankfurt) 4:26pm

Today 5:00am
Tomorrow 8:06am
3:56pm
4:26pm

Let of 1 Day New moon 1st of 1 Day Full moon 2nd of 1 Day

AFRICA

Cape Town	77	62	Mogadishu	88	77
Dakar	83	70	Nairobi	80	61
Freeport	89	77	Rabat	62	50
Windhoek	86	54	Riyadh	72	46

THE WORLD

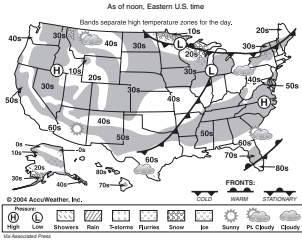
Amsterdam	45	37	Manila	88	79
Austin	73	56	Mexico City	73	45
Beijing	54	33	Montreal	36	27
Bombay	69	54	Riyadh	72	46
Buenos Aires	73	67	Rio de Jan	79	70
Calcutta	88	74	Saudi	56	37
Chennai	86	74	Saudi	56	37
Hong Kong	79	68	Sydney	74	62
London	56	46	Tokyo	59	44



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alabama	54	31	PCldy
Alaska	41	30	PCldy
Arizona	51	25	PCldy
Arkansas	45	25	PCldy
California	41	23	PCldy
Colorado	36	23	PCldy
Connecticut	54	31	PCldy
Delaware	59	37	PCldy
District of Columbia	51	32	PCldy
Florida	59	37	PCldy
Georgia	51	32	PCldy
Hawaii	59	37	PCldy
Idaho	51	32	PCldy
Illinois	51	32	PCldy
Indiana	51	32	PCldy
Iowa	51	32	PCldy
Kansas	51	32	PCldy
Kentucky	51	32	PCldy
Louisiana	51	32	PCldy
Maine	51	32	PCldy
Maryland	51	32	PCldy
Massachusetts	51	32	PCldy
Michigan	51	32	PCldy
Minnesota	51	32	PCldy
Mississippi	51	32	PCldy
Missouri	51	32	PCldy
Montana	51	32	PCldy
Nebraska	51	32	PCldy
Nevada	51	32	PCldy
New Hampshire	51	32	PCldy
New Jersey	51	32	PCldy
New Mexico	51	32	PCldy
New York	51	32	PCldy
North Carolina	51	32	PCldy
North Dakota	51	32	PCldy
Ohio	51	32	PCldy
Oklahoma	51	32	PCldy
Oregon	51	32	PCldy
Pennsylvania	51	32	PCldy
Rhode Island	51	32	PCldy
South Carolina	51	32	PCldy
South Dakota	51	32	PCldy
Tennessee	51	32	PCldy
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Utah	51	32	PCldy
Vermont	51	32	PCldy
Virginia	51	32	PCldy
Washington	51	32	PCldy
West Virginia	51	32	PCldy
Wisconsin	51	32	PCldy
Wyoming	51	32	PCldy

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Revision: 02/05/04 2, 3/04

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley Hippo Hopscotch	Movie *** "Changes" (1991)	Dr. Phil	Jocerguy!	Nightline	College Basketball (Ole Miss at Clemson, (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jocerguy!
9:30	Sage-Sesame Cast	Cheryl Ladd, Michael Nouri. A top TV correspondent falls in love with a heart surgeon.	(9:45) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report	Low Carb & Lovin' It	Headline News	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)					Design on a Dime	ESPNnews	
10:30	Between the Lions (E)					Style Star	Pacific Report	
10:40	Sage-Sesame Cast	(10:40) Movie *** "Abolition of Man" (1986, Drama) Paul Newman, Sally Field, Melinda Dillon.	(10:45) General Hospital	Headline News	The O'Reilly Factor	College Basketball Virginia at Northwestern, (Taped)	El News Live	Two and a Half Men
11:00	Stanley "A Whole New Song"					Girlfriends	The King of Queens	Wish & Grace "Fenwick"
11:30	Dora the Explorer					Charm'd "Womb Raider"	The Apprentice	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Paper or Plastic?"
12:00	The Wiggles					Good Morning America	Friends	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Paper or Plastic?"
12:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Movie *** "Prelude to a Kiss" (1996) Alec Baldwin. A stranger's kiss has deep repercussions for two newswomen.	Today Kathie Lee Gifford.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Paper or Plastic?"				
13:00	Dragon Tales (E)							
14:00	Blue's Clues "Nature"							
14:30	Barny & Friends (E)							
15:00	Funnies Home Videos	(2:40) Movie *** "Gorillas in the Mist" (1988) Susan Sarandon. A gorilla's kiss has deep repercussions for two newswomen.	Legend of Tarzan	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Late Show	Headline News	College Basketball North Carolina at Indiana.	Any Day Now "It's Not Just a Word" (Part 1 of 2)
15:30	Full House "The Wedding"					Channel One		Late Show
16:00	Pokémon The City of Heroes					The Early Show		ER "On the Beach"
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mime Control"							Access Hollywood
17:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters							Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power							The Late Late Show
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Elbert-Movies	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced, (Taped)	The Simpsons	
18:30	The Wiggles	Entertainment Tonight	Destinations	Destinations	FOX News	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller	
19:00	That's So Raven	Movie *** "John Q." (2002) Denzel Washington, Robin Williams. A father resorts to violence to obtain a heart for his son.	Two and a Half Men	Countdown With Keith Olsen	FOX News	Summertime "The Grass is Greener Than You Think"	Countdown With Keith Olsen	
20:00	7th Heaven "It's Not Always About You"					The Practice Bobby feels torn about his client.	Entertainment Studios.com	
20:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch					48 Hours Mystery	The Hot List	Headline News
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch					Friends	Sentinel "The Little Jenny"	Today Kathie Lee Gifford.
22:00	The Cozy Show					NFL Live	Around the Horn	
22:30	Home Improvement					Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
23:00	Home Improvement							
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2004								
00:00	Hey Arnold!	(11:30) Movie *** "Aldrich Ames: Traitor Within"	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power							Wheel in the Big Blue House
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(12:55) Movie *** "Jaws 2" (1978, Horror) Roy Scheider. Another massive shark appears off the coast of Maine.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	NBA Action	Summertime "The Grass is Greener Than You Think"	Wheel in the Big Blue House
1:30	That's So Raven					NBA Tonight	(1:15) NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Dallas Mavericks. From American Airlines Center in Dallas, (Live)	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	That's So Raven					Countdown With Keith Olsen		The Practice Bobby feels torn about his client.
2:30	Al! That					Hannity & Colmes		Oprah Winfrey
3:00	7th Heaven "It's Not Always About You"	Movie *** "John Q." (2002) Denzel Washington, Robin Williams. A father resorts to violence to obtain a heart for his son.	AFN Evening News	NBC Nightly News	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Denver Nuggets. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	Friends	NBC Nightly News
3:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	Sentinel "The Little Jenny"	Judge Judy
4:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:00	Sesame Street (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	Caribbean Workout	(2:30) General Hospital
6:00	Barny & Friends (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	Body Shaping	Wish & Grace "Fenwick"
6:30	Blue's Clues					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	TIPICAL Mary Ellen	Headline News
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	The View	Teacher's Pet (E)
7:30	Bob the Builder					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	What's a New Scooby-Doo?	Ozzy & Drix "Purity Alert"
8:00	The Wiggles					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)	Emiri Live	The Brothers Garcia
8:30	Dora the Explorer					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Nightly Business Report
9:00	Stanley "Penguin Party"					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
9:30	Sage-Sesame Cast					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
10:30	Between the Lions (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
11:00	Sage-Sesame Cast					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
11:30	Stanley					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
12:00	Dora the Explorer					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
12:30	The Wiggles					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
13:00	Bob the Builder					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
14:00	Blue's Clues					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
14:30	Barny & Friends (E)					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
15:00	Funnies Home Videos					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
15:30	Full House "Foster House"					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
16:00	Pokémon					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mime Control"					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
17:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
18:30	The Wiggles					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
19:00	Al! That's So Raven					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
19:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
20:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
20:30	Drake & Josh					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
21:00	That's So Raven					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
22:00	Radio Free Roscoe					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
22:30	The Cozy Show					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News
23:00	Home Improvement					Carolina Panthers at Denver Broncos. From the Pepsi Center in Denver, (Live)		Headline News

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FACES



Former "Jeopardy!" champion Ken Jennings, left, reacts to a right answer while being quizzed by talk show host David Letterman on the "Late Show with David Letterman." Jennings finally lost on Tuesday's broadcast, after becoming the biggest money winner in TV game show history, earning \$2,520,700 over a 74-game run.

So long, Smartypants

Ken Jennings ended his record-shattering 74-show winning streak on "Jeopardy!" during Tuesday's episode. He earned \$2,520,700—the most money ever won by a TV game show contestant.

Correct answers	Average wager	One-day winnings
2,613 out of 2,848 attempts	\$3,799 on Daily Double	Highest \$75,000*
51 out of 74 in Final Jeopardy	\$7,727 on Final Jeopardy	Lowest \$10,001
		Average \$34,063.51

Losing "Most of this firm's 70,000 seasonal question white-collar employees work only four months a year."

NOTE: Data is through 74 shows.

Sources: King World Productions Inc.; tgameshows.net



'Jeopardy!' whiz finally meets his match

By DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

Jennings loses after 74 games, \$2.5 million

NEW YORK — Following his remarkable run as the "Jeopardy!" whiz, Ken Jennings is famous enough to be trailed by a fan in the subway, is penning a book and, of course, has \$2,520,700 in winnings to decide how to spend.

What he doesn't have anymore, after his 74-game winning streak came to an end in an episode televised Tuesday, is a chance to play his favorite game.

"I miss it quite a bit," Jennings said.

"It didn't really hit me that that was going to be the hard part."

"I thought the hard part would be the loss."

He seemed so invincible that when California real estate agent Nancy Zeng beat him, there was an audible gasp from the audience.

As someone who always has prepared his own tax returns, Jennings was tripped up in Final Jeopardy by this answer: Most of this firm's 70,000 seasonal

white-collar employees work only four months a year.

Zeng had the correct reply: "What is H&R Block?" But Jennings guessed Federal Express, and he was a "Jeopardy!" loser for the first time.

The final score was Zeng's \$14,001 to Jennings' \$8,799.

Even before that, she had needed an unusual display of Jennings' falter to stay in the game. He twice answered wrong on Daily Double questions, which cost him nearly \$10,000.

Maybe that's why he paused, ever so slightly, when asked Tuesday whether he had lost or been beaten. He then graciously gave Zeng credit.

"It was a big relief to me that I lost to someone who played a better game than me," said Jennings, a computer software engineer from Salt Lake City. "There were no recriminations or remorse."

Zeng, a former actress who

lives in Ventura, Calif., said that she psyched herself up before the game by repeating to herself: "Someone's got to beat him sometime, it might as well be me."

Hanging out backstage with fellow contestants, she saw some Jennings opponents had essentially lost before the game. She heard one person say that it looked like he was playing for second, and another just wishing not to be humiliated.

"I heard another one say, 'It's no great sin to lose to Ken Jennings,' and they went in and lost to Ken Jennings," she said.

"I thought, 'That's no way to play the game.'"

The loss is actually a distant memory and was not really a secret: The show was taped in early September and news leaked right away.

Video clips of his loss appeared Monday on the Internet.

He combined an extraordinary breadth of knowledge, uncanny

skill at sensing the precise instant to ring his buzzer, and a sharp competitive instinct hidden behind his grin and polite manner.

It made many of the games boring. But "Jeopardy!" executives aren't complaining: ratings were up 22 percent over the same period last season.

Jennings said he'd been thinking about walking away after about a future milestone — 100 wins, perhaps, or \$3 million or \$4 million in winnings. He said there were about a dozen games where one reply made the difference between winning and losing, and he figured his luck would end soon.

"I'm actually cheering for somebody to beat my record," he said. "How cool would that be? But, realistically, I don't think there's much of a chance. So many lucky things had to happen."

"Everything had to fall the right way."

Zeng, who found the whole experience of winning "surreal," scoffed at the false modesty.

"It's not because things fell the right way," she said. "It's because he's that good."

The most rewarding part of his experience, Jennings said, is the number of times he's been approached by young children.

"Maybe it's because they're most aware by disposable celebrity," he said. "But I think there are some kids who got the idea that it may be a little cooler to know stuff and to read and to learn. If watching me on TV convinces some kid that they've got some future in knowledge, that would be very rewarding to me."

Meanwhile, Kansas City, Mo.-based H&R Block Inc. capitalized on the chance for a little publicity by offering him free tax and financial services for life, which Jennings accepted.

"If he had to lose, it was nice that he lost to us and we could offer him something," David Byers, senior vice president for tax operations, said Tuesday.

Jennings will probably owe about \$1.04 million in federal and Utah taxes on the winnings, Byers said, citing preliminary calculations by H&R Block.

Godzilla gets a Hollywood star

Godzilla finally received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, 50 years after he stomped onto movie screens and hours before the premiere of his latest film, "Godzilla: Final Wars."

Producer Shogo Toyiama appeared at a ceremony Monday outside Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where the 2,271st star is located.

"I'm here representing Godzilla. Unfortunately, he cannot speak English," he said. "We're very excited he is being honored in America."

On screen, the fire-breathing sea creature was spawned by nuclear weapons testing. He made his appearance in Japanese theaters in November 1954 — while the United States was conducting nuclear tests



Godzilla

in the South Pacific.

A version starring Raymond Burr made it to theaters in the United States two years later.

Shriver supports amendment

Maria Shriver believes there should be an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow her husband, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, to run for president — but she has her doubts that it will be enacted.

"Forget about it," California's first lady says in an article in the January issue of Vanity Fair magazine, on newstands Wednesday. "It is not going to happen. The process takes years, and this is as far as it goes."

She said that "absolutely" should be an amendment that would allow Republican Schwarzenegger and other naturalized citizens to run for president. "We are a nation of immigrants," she says.

It would take two-thirds votes in Congress and approval by at least 38 states to

adopt such an amendment.

Schwarzenegger, who was born in Austria and became a U.S. citizen in 1983, has said he's interested in running for president.

A Silicon Valley-based group run by a political supporter of the governor has started a Web site and begun running cable television ads promoting an amendment that would allow him to do so.

A Texas radio talk-show host has started raising funds for television ads opposing the change.

'Do They Know ...' again

A new recording of the 1984 charity single "Do They Know It's Christmas?" hit British record stores, many of which opened early in anticipation of large

crowds.

The single features artists including Coldplay's Chris Martin, former Beatle Paul McCartney, U2's Bono and Dido. The recording will raise money for victims of the ongoing strife in the Sudan, where fighting has killed thousands of people and created 1.8 million refugees.

HMV Records, one of Britain's largest music retailers, opened more than 200 stores on hour early, at 8 a.m., Monday and reported strong early morning sales.

HMV and other retailers were selling the single for \$7.55.

The song retails for \$2.82 at online distributors.

Apple's iTunes, the popular online music store, isn't carrying the single because it declined to sell the song for more than the service's \$1.50 base price. An Apple spokesman in London declined Monday to comment on its dispute with the Band Aid Trust over the cost of the recording.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Shriver

OPINION

Anchor' move makes things Rather clear

As any professor of journalism will tell you, television was once expected to put newspapers out of business. That didn't happen (for which I am duly thankful), but it certainly thinned the herd of afternoon papers.

Philip Terzian



When I was learning to read, the prestige newspaper in Washington, D.C., was the Evening Star—which finally disappeared, after years of limping along. 23 years ago, TV news didn't replace newspapers; but one look at USA Today, or a typical front page in Anywhere USA, makes

its influence palpable.

It's two generations later, and we're wrestling with the effects of cable television and the Internet. Both were expected to supplant newspapers and, quite possibly, the then-Big Three TV networks: NBC, CBS and ABC. But that hasn't happened, either.

So life goes on. But it cannot be said that cable and the Internet have failed to influence the market. Television was first seen as a revolutionary tool for education; few anticipated its effect on politics. Similarly, cable television and the Internet have sparked a revolution in journalism that no one expected. And if you don't believe me, ask Dan Rather.

Last week Rather announced that he will step down as anchorman of the "CBS Evening News" in March, having served as the network's principal news reader since 1981. (He will continue to be a correspond-

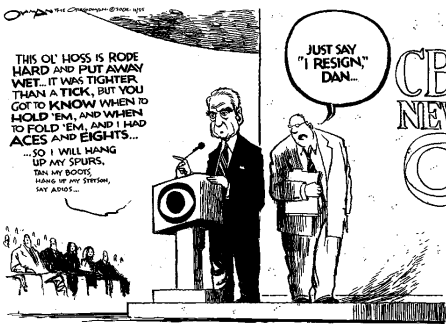
ent for the popular "60 Minutes.") In the normal course of things, a 73-year-old's decision to quit a job is not entirely unexpected. But I am willing to bet that the decision was not his.

Dan Rather has long been accused of political bias, and the revelation that a sensational "60 Minutes" story about George W. Bush's National Guard service was based on falsified evidence was probably one upwar too many for the network brass. Rather will be on his way to retirement (or past it) from anchorman when an independent inquiry into the disaster dissects its findings.

There isn't enough space here to enter the argument about whether CBS, ABC and NBC—and most "mainstream" media in America—lean toward the left. My own view is that the evidence for it is substantial, and the explanation is simple: For whatever reason, journalism attracts more people on the left than on the right, and its institutional watchwords and biases are tilted accordingly.

But the fact is that Dan Rather has tended to aggravate right-wing nerves more consistently than his colleagues at ABC (Peter Jennings) and NBC (Tom Brokaw), and when that "60 Minutes" story was broadcast, the dan finally burst. Cable TV (especially Fox and MSNBC) and the Internet, in particular, exploded with dissenting views, pointed questions, contrary evidence and credible allegations of fraud.

In the good old days, such anger and frustration would have been largely ignored, widely scattered, and safely ignored by CBS. No longer. The clamor on the Internet soon migrated to cable TV and grew so insistent that the "mainstream" press could no longer afford to ignore the noise.



If this were 1969, and not 2004, CBS might have reacted as it did when its famous documentary, "The Selling of the Pentagon," was criticized for deception and multiple errors. Citing a combination of the First Amendment, the people's right to know and professional self-regard, CBS airily dismissed its detractors and stood by its story. But that was 35 years ago. Jonathan Klein, a former vice president of CBS News (and the new president of CNN), derided bloggers as guys in their pajamas surfing the Net, and Rather cited "partisan" critics, adding that "if any

definitive evidence to the contrary of our story is found, we will report it." Finally, they did, sort of—two weeks after everyone else had done so.

As far as journalism is concerned, this is not to say that cable TV and the Internet are unmixed blessings. But the mortification of CBS, and Dan Rather's timely retirement from anchorman, affirm a familiar truth: Competition pushes journalism—like any product—to higher standards.

Philip Terzian, The Providence (R.I.) Journal's associate editor, writes a column from Washington.

Senator knows most Floridians side with Scouts

In their collective group-therapy sessions, Democrats should pay attention to how their only major officeholder in the nation's key battleground state is trying to survive politically.

Peter A. Brown



Sen. Bill Nelson, the sole statewide-elected Democrat in Florida, has decided that one way to get re-elected in 2006 is to side with the Boy Scouts against gays and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Seems an obvious choice to me, but one assumes in Democratic circles it has caused much angst. However, Nelson is just learning from the master: William Jefferson Clinton, who had the genius to confront Democratic interest groups when they stood between him and the middle class—and victory at the polls.

There are many of the folks who fret about the Bush economy and worry about the war in Iraq or think the country is on the wrong track, but don't think Democrats share their values. That's why George W. Bush is in the White House and the Republicans control Congress.

Nelson understands that millions of Americans think the Democrats often hang with the wrong crowd and that, in the inevitable political conflicts, the party has made poor choices because of those friendships. He realizes the best way to dissuade voters of that notion, at least in his case, is to publicly embrace a sworn enemy of those very same interest groups.

That's why Nelson is trying to help the Scouts resist efforts by the lousy left to restrict the group's ability to function.

And let's not be overly cynical here. The

political benefits to Nelson are apparent to anyone with a brain, but he deserves credit, too, for deciding the Scouts' good works make them worth championing.

The U.S. Supreme Court has told the ACLU it can't make Scouts accept homosexual leaders or stop them from requiring Scouts to believe in God. Talk about sore losers! Since then, the ACLU and allied groups have sought to nippick the Scouts to death. Lefty groups have pressured charities to cut off money to the Scouts, and allied lawyers have looked for every excuse to cause trouble for them.

The ACLU & Co. don't like the fact that the Scouts exclude gay leaders for young boys and require that members believe in God. In red states, these notions are as American as apple pie.

Last month, the Pentagon agreed to warn its military bases not to directly sponsor Scout troops. The military did it to settle an

allegation that the government was engaging in religious discrimination because Scouts must acknowledge the existence of a (nonsectarian) supreme being.

In the ACLU worldview, that is a gross violation of the rights of atheists and, perhaps more important, it symbolizes a mentality the group would like to see banished from our shores.

Nelson... gets an A for understanding his constituents—the same folks Democrats need to win national elections....

Nelson has embarked on a tour of Florida in which he is meeting with Scout organizers to assure them that they will continue to get indirect military help in their efforts. He tells them that military personnel still can sponsor Scout troops on their own time and use military bases for meetings.

And he introduced a resolution urging not just that the Pentagon support the Scouts, but that it fund their jamborees. The resolu-

tion passed the U.S. House of Representatives 391-3, with the only dissenting votes from Democrats with the safest of seats. Nelson says that if the resolution doesn't work, he'll get the support enacted into law.

Nelson is taking a page from the gospel of winning elections in the South laid down by Clinton. In 1992, Clinton picked a fight with Jesse Jackson to demonstrate his independence from black leaders who historically have been strong Democratic supporters, but whose policies and personalities have often alienated the much larger number of white voters.

We'll see if Democratic activists hold Nelson's coyness up to the Scouts against him. If they do, the Republicans will be thrilled to see even more Democratic political correctness. As they say in treatment, the first step toward rehabilitation is admitting the problem.

Peter A. Brown is an editorial page columnist for the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

What's not to love about the Leo moon as it imparts its generous and regal energy, lending its passion and regal entertainment? All right, things are sometimes just too sickeningly grand and dramatic to the level of exhaustion, but other than that, what's not to love? Get in touch with your inner royalty. Make a gesture appropriate to the day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 2). Your dogged determination in previous years will pay off this year! Watch your original ideas bear fruit. Continuing to encourage people around you is key to making the most of improved finances through March. Couples make new rules in the spring. Singles: Be bold enough to make the first move. Lucky signs are Aquarius and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be drawn to eccentric types—the sort who wear a hat and fox fur to empty the garbage. These folks have something invaluable to teach you about joyful living and could take you under their wing if you're willing to learn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're feeling detached, as though what's happening to you is happening to someone else and you're merely a witness. There's power in this frame of mind. You can honestly tell yourself what behavior needs changing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everyone needs someone else to balance. You're the reasonable one now, so naturally, the unreasonable people are drawn to you. Remind that whining someone: if you work for the butcher, don't complain about the blood.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In order to give up a struggle you've first got to recognize it as such. Are you flowing with the current, treading water or swimming upstream? A strong female will help you out if you show gratitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sticking up for your rights is one thing, but causing turmoil when the problem is really your own is quite another.

Figure out what's really bothering you. Then, instead of dragging another person into it, you can simply drop it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your circle of pals is feeling verbal, witty and verging on rude! There are so many zingers being shot around that you'll feel like you're at a Fiaris Club roast! Be careful not to let the fun get out of hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a fanatic practitioner of fair play, feeling that if you don't make every one is getting treated correctly, there could potentially be a problem. To avoid resistance to your ideas, give credit wherever possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes, for the sake of making a relationship better, you must forget your quest to make a relationship better for a few days. A relationship is a living thing and requires breathing room and time on its own to grow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's practically no end to your optimism. Life may not be how you are seeing it, but isn't that the point? Ultimately, your sunny attitude will reduce stress and keep you focused on what's important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You instinctively know how to use the element of surprise. You've stashed tricks up your sleeve you haven't even used yet! In fact, you're the sign most likely to jump out of a birthday cake—metaphorically speaking, of course.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The constant assembling and reassembling of data gets overwhelming. You'll start to feel that the world is random and not connected—but then, you're over that in five minutes, and it's back to your usual hopefulness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Get a conversation going between family members. You don't need to come up with the right answer today, but it's helpful to let the talk take you on a trip together. The more thought provoking your questions, the better.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



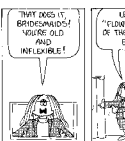
Jump Start



Zits



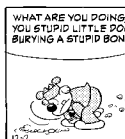
Cathy



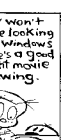
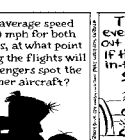
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



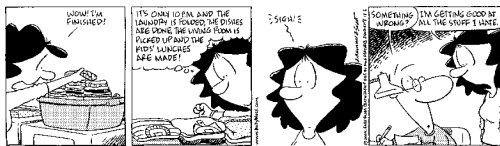
Footrot



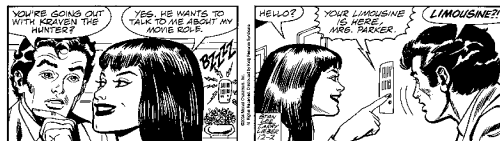
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



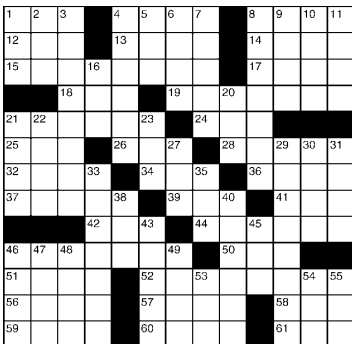
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Subtraction result (Abb.)

4 — Raton, Fla.

8 Use fingerprints

12 Immigrant's study (Abb.)

13 Prior nights

14 Fashion reporter

15 Car-crash injury

17 Doggerel, e.g.

18 Luau bowlful

19 Bank staff

21 Talented

24 Paulo preceder

25 Every last crumb

26 Watch pocket

28 Interval of recurrence

32 Lahr role

34 Diastema

36 "Pygmalion" writer

37 Bolivian city

39 Uncultured

41 Rocks, at the bar

42 Director Burton

44 Friendly spirit

46 Mama's boy?

50 Calendar p.p.

51 Sub in a tub

52 Careless

56 Blueprint

57 Bean curd

58 Buy now, pay later

59 Lacking, in Lyons

Down

1 Condensation

2 Sorta (Suft.)

3 Change your mind, maybe

4 Tenet

5 Eventual ayes

6 "— Magnifique"

7 Campfire remains

8 Spreads out

9 Lotion additive

10 Addict

11 Nutty as a fruitcake

12 Caudron

13 Vanish ingredient

14 Chutzpah

15 Peltz bones

16 Xmas abbr.

17 Follow relentlessly

18 Prohibit

19 Golf tactic

20 Spike the punch

21 Basin accessory

22 Lands

23 Att. counterpart

24 Nothing

25 Money

26 Necessities

27 "Mayday!"

28 Big name in scat

29 Campus bigwig

30 Interminable

31 "— picture paints 1,000 words ..."

32 Pussycat's partner

33 Xmas abbr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-2 CRYPTOQUIP

M H S L N M E F M J I T Q V Q
Y V Q G G X , T M G B M K X
U W K Q V M J I A N U B W H M G ,
M G T W N E F L Q Z M A Y E X
F Q - K M J Q !

Yesterday's Cryptquip: CONCERT PIANISTS
MIGHT ALSO BE GOOD CHESS PLAYERS.
THEY'RE BOTH GRAND MASTERS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Q equal E

Chiefs' Vermeil says he'll be on sideline in 2005

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The coach who made burn-out a part of sports lexicon is 68 and enduring one of the most disappointing years of a long, distinguished career.

NFL briefs

But there are no thoughts of another retirement for Dick Vermeil, who said Tuesday he'll be back next season for the final year of his contract with the Kansas City Chiefs.

"Sometimes I walk off the field feeling sorry for myself," Vermeil said Tuesday. "That's human nature. I'd be a liar not to say that. Everything we do that fails I feel just as bad about today as I did in the late '70s and early '80s. But I handle it better."

Expected to be a Super Bowl contender after posting a 13-3 regular-season record last season, the Chiefs are 3-8 and on a four-game losing skid. There are no playoff games looming, only big changes on the field and possibly in the front office.

But Vermeil, who walked away from the Philadelphia Eagles in 1982 citing emotional exhaustion and burnout, said he's determined to be back.

"I would certainly hope (so)," said Chiefs General Manager Carl Peterson, a friend from Vermeil's Philadelphia days who coached Vermeil out of his second retirement in 2001, after he led the St. Louis Rams to victory in a Super Bowl.

"He's got a two-year contract. I would be very surprised if that changed for any reason. He's a very resilient guy. He's determined. I think he's anxious to try to get this thing going in the right direction. Dick is disappointed. We all are. He's looking for solutions. He's getting through it."

Peterson usually speaks with Vermeil several times a day and always keeps a close eye on the attitude of the players and staff.

"Dick has done a magnificent job of keeping the players focused and enthusiastic about what they're doing," he said. "We know they get paid for it, but you still have to have a passion for it."

For the third year in a row, a faulty defense has ruined an outstanding year from one of the NFL's top offenses. There is mounting criticism not only of the coaching staff, but of the player personnel and scouting departments.

QB Hutchinson to start for Bears

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chad Hutchinson was about to go surfing near his Southern California home two months ago when he got a call from the Chicago Bears.

They weren't promising anything, only a roster

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognostic. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the leagues.)

Dolphins: LB Zach Thomas (hamstring) will not play Sunday. Packers: TE David Martin (strained knee) out for season.

spot and the possibility of playing for a team that goes through quarterbacks like practice jerseys. But for a guy who went from being the next Troy Aikman to a pre-training camp castoff, it was more than enough.

"It's awesome. This is all I can ask for," he said. "Two months ago I was like, 'Man, I just want to get back in the game to just get an opportunity,' and my opportunity is here. For me, I'm just so excited because this is what I love to do and it's another opportunity to do it."

But his choice was not against the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday, the Bears' fourth quarterback this season.

"Last time I put so much pressure on myself to be the next Troy Aikman when it wasn't really feasible," he said. "This time I'm going to do the little things that will help me get better as a quarterback in the NFL. I'm going to have fun because this is another lease on life."

Hutchinson showed great promise in two seasons at Stanford, throwing for 4,235 yards and 20 touchdowns with a completion rate of 66 percent. But as good a football player as he was, he was just as good — or better — as a pitcher. The right-hander was 10-5 with a 4.89 ERA and 115 strikeouts his junior season, and the St. Louis Cardinals took him in the second round of the 1996 amateur draft.

He spent most of the next four years in the minor leagues, making a brief appearance in the majors in April 2001. After compiling a 24.75 ERA in three appearances, Hutchinson went back to the minors and realized he still wanted to play football.

Bucs release veteran PK Gramatica

TAMPA, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers released a nagging kicker Martin Gramatica on Tuesday and replaced him with Atlanta Football League kicker Jay Taylor.

The team's career scoring leader missed three field goals in Sunday's 21-14 loss at Carolina and was 11-for-19 this season. He missed seven of his last nine attempts and had not made a field goal over 22 yards since Oct. 10.

Redskins' Taylor pleads not guilty to drunken driving charge

FAIRFAX, Va. — Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor pleaded not guilty Wednesday to a drunken driving charge, and his trial was rescheduled for Jan. 5.

The rookie plays to call teammates as witnesses to say he was sober Oct. 27, said Taylor's lawyer, Warren McLain. Taylor had been at a birthday party for wide receiver Rod Gardner.

Taylor, the No. 5 overall draft pick, was pulled over by a Virginia state trooper on Washington's beltway and refused a breath test. Virginia state police say he failed field sobriety tests.

McLain contends Taylor passed the tests.

Parcells turns to Testaverde again

By CLARENCE E. HILL JR.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

IRVING, Texas — In choosing to return 18-year veteran quarterback Vinny Testaverde to the starting lineup for Monday's game at Seattle, Cowboys coach Bill Parcells is not necessarily casting a vote against the development of rookie Drew Henson.

Rather his choice is a vote — now more than ever — against giving up on the present.

Despite their disappointing 4-7 record, the Cowboys are one game back in the race for the final playoff spot in the NFC.

The Cowboys could move a step closer with a victory against Seattle. Parcells said Testaverde simply gives them the best chance to take that step.

"I am rooting for Henson," he said. "He just needs more experience. You say, 'how's he gonna get that?' I can't forsake everything to do that. I couldn't do it in good conscience. It's just not right. My mind only works basically this week, this season; that is what my responsibility is — to try to get the most out of this team, this year."

Parcells couldn't deny the Cowboys suddenly have something legitimate to play for — maybe even more by Monday. With a 7-4 mark, the Minnesota Vikings are the front-runners for one of the two NFC wild-card spots. The St. Louis Rams (5-6) and New York Giants (5-6) are one game ahead of seven 4-7 teams — the Chicago Bears, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Arizona Cardinals, Detroit Lions, Carolina Panthers, New Orleans Saints and the Cowboys — for the other spot.

On Sunday, the Bears play the Vikings, the Buccaneers meet the Panthers and the Lions battle the Cardinals. So the Cowboys might find themselves in a better position before they kick off Monday night.

"I'm not the one that mentioned playoffs, but I am just saying there are a lot of different now than they were last week," Parcells said.

Parcells also dispatched any notion that his quarterback decision was against the wishes of owner Jerry Jones, who expressed "surprise" and the "disappointment" following the 21-7 Thanksgiving Day victory against the Bears, because Henson was replaced by Testaverde midway through his first NFL start.

Jones said it was nice to get the win, but it would have been sweeter with Henson at the helm.

Parcells said he didn't view Jones' comments as criticism or second guessing, but rather him expressing his opinion.

Parcells said any characterization of the two being on opposite sides of this issue are wrong.

"I'm telling you we're not on opposite ends so you write what you want, or say what you want; it isn't going to have any bearing on my response," Parcells said.

Parcells certainly has no regrets about his decision against the Bears. Henson struggled in the first half against a blitzing defense. He completed four of 12 passes for 31 yards, including an interception returned 45 yards for a touchdown.

With the score 7-7 at halftime, Parcells made the change. Testaverde, who did not start because of a shoulder injury suffered a week earlier against Baltimore, completed nine of 14 passes for 92 yards. He gave the Cowboys a 17-lead in the fourth quarter with a 5-yard touchdown pass to fullback Brian Barnes.

"I knew that bringing (Testaverde) into the game that Chicago could not do what they were trying to do to Drew," Parcells said. "If they did, they'd have been burned pretty bad. As soon as Vinny came in there, they changed quite a bit themselves. But they were all-out committed to pressuring Drew into bad plays. Once Vinny got in there, they got a little bit more conservative themselves. I don't know what would have happened. I just think they would have been more adamant about pressing."

NFL Hall of Fame Challenge

Top Scores for Week 12

254	yankees#1
252	Blitz
252	Quick Pick
246	PAC ATTACK
246	travieso
246	Big Mama
244	NanoeMac357
244	Nanook
244	Steel Thunder
244	Tidbit

Spangdahlem
DeDios
282nd BSB
35 MXS
528th. SOSB (A)
JAC/RAF Molesworth
Leighton Barracks
Yokota AB
Schlesel AB
Stuttgart Military Comm.

2000
1998
1990
1984
1978
1970
1970
1970
1970
1970

STEEFGROGWOOD
gale#1
archy
SPLEINMASTER 04
Jack58
me
Jaguar One
bam
dogboy
DREW

MAG-12
hbc.237 ar
European Stars & Stripes
Hohenfels
422 AB RAF Croughton
Darmstadt
DoDDs
20 REPLACEMENT
374 ARMS
DoDDs

See website for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

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Best Overall Scores



San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates (85) scores one of his two touchdowns against Kansas City on Sunday. Gates is second in the league in receptions and has scored 11 touchdowns.

Gates has created new hoopla

Basketball player turning heads as NFL TE

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The closest Antonio Gates gets to basketball these days is on his PlayStation. He's still somewhat of a curiosity, for sure, the former power forward who helped take Kent State within a game of the 2002 Final Four.

As every Sunday passes, though, his hoops career grows more distant. Gates continues to emerge as one of the NFL's top playmakers, a seemingly unstoppable tight end who's helping power the surprising San Diego Chargers toward a long-sought playoff berth.

On Sunday, he caught two more touchdown passes from Drew Brees to help the Chargers beat Kansas City 34-31 and improve to 8-3 atop the AFC West.

Gates had a better game than Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City's five-time Pro Bowl tight end and a former college hoops star himself, who leads the NFL with 21 touchdown passes and needs one more to tie the NFL record for tight ends, which is shared by four players.

He's already broken Hall of Famer Kellen Winslow's team record for touchdowns in a season by a tight end, 10 in 1981. "For me, I am being the kind of guy that I just, to hear all these special things — it's kind of like mind-boggling," said Gates, who didn't play football in college. "I play to have fun regardless of the records and the comparisons. I'm trying to build an identity for Antonio Gates."

On one hand, that's not a problem.

"You see what the guy's doing; I see him having a long and prosperous career in this league," Brees said. "When people see him make the Pro Bowl this year, if he hasn't turned a lot of heads already, he will then."

Gates continues to baffle defenses and make fans forget "Marty Ball," the plodding, run-oriented offense once favored by coach Marty Schottenheimer. At times, offensive coordinator Cam Cameron has had Gates line up as a wide receiver and in the backfield.

Gates is second in the NFL with 69 catches (per 795 yards), one behind Tennessee's Derrick Mason. He's scored the same number of touchdowns as teammate LaDainian Tomlinson. Only three players have scored more TDs: Priest Holmes, Terrell Owens and Shaun Alexander.

The Chargers used to be brutal on third down, which is now when the 6-foot-4, 260-pound Gates makes some of his biggest plays. He leads the NFL with 24 third-down catches, including five for touchdowns.

"He's up there because of the matchups he creates," Brees said. "We've put him out there on corners and he's beat them on fades, beat them on slants, beat them on whatever we need to beat them on. He can do that. He's that kind of athlete."

Gates remains humble about his success and isn't ready to put himself in the company of players such as Owens and Gonzalez.

"They've done it time after time, year in, year out," he said. "I just consider myself as an imperative role for this offense. Whatever this offense asks me to do, that's what I've got to do. You

want to feel part of something and I think right now I'm part of something special, this offense."

Gates, who joined the Chargers as an undrafted rookie in May 2003, is still learning. Schottenheimer talked to him last week about running better after making a catch. Then Gates took off for a 51-yard gain on a fourth-quarter pass play on Sunday, only to have it come back when the Chargers were whistled for an illegal formation.

"But I did make sure that I alerted him he did a terrific job in that regard," Schottenheimer said.

As for Gates' development, "It would be less than fair to him to say that it's become very, very obvious that I play pickup games with 'T. Edwards,' said Schottenheimer. "You look at the fact that he's kind of swept on the scene. I think it's a little bit of a football player who while people mention the basketball, he's certainly establishing his performance level to the point that really, that's what he is, a terrific National Football League receiver. And I didn't say 'tight end.' I said 'receiver.'"

Gates still watches hoops on TV but doesn't play pickup games anymore in order to stay focused on football.

He knows people will always associate him with his hoops career. "When I played basketball, they always looked at me as a football player. When I was hitting 34, they were like, 'This is a football player.' When I was scoring two, three touchdowns, it was like, 'This is a basketball player we're talking about.'"

Gates has fun with the comparisons, especially with him and the Chargers are doing so well. "I'll Cam tells me to step back and shoot the three, I can do that," he said.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 12 Quarterbacks

Player	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	352	237	3,196	41	5
Brees, S.D.	313	206	2,458	21	3
Reed/Rivers, N.Y.	232	121	1,719	12	1
Pennington, N.J.	216	144	1,643	9	3
Green, K.C.	372	240	2,652	15	5
Plummer, Den.	327	204	2,751	22	11
Brady, N.E.	298	195	2,752	11	5
Carr, Hou.	347	216	2,751	12	9
Johnson, A.C.	307	199	2,678	10	5
Volek, Ten.	171	104	1,013	6	5

Rushers

Player	Att	Yds	LG	TD
Dillon, Ind.	243	1,192	49	40
Martin, N.Y.J.	259	1,171	45	28
James, C.D.	236	1,121	48	44
A. Johnson, C.N.	248	1,040	52	1
Droughfens, Den.	202	945	47	51
Johnson, K.C.	237	945	42	1
Tomlinson, S.D.	237	899	38	42
Holmes, K.C.	186	892	48	1
Brown, Ten.	186	872	47	52
McCahee, Buf.	192	758	42	51

Receivers

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Mason, Ten.	69	795	113	29
C. Johnson, C.N.	69	810	140	32
Gonzalez, K.C.	64	838	131	32
Moulis, Buf.	72	724	49	4
Harrison, Ind.	63	764	121	52
Johnson, Hou.	63	764	54	5
Ward, P.D.	60	720	120	58
J. Smith, Jac.	57	689	105	52
Mortimer, K.C.	52	747	104	52

Punters

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	49	2,047	57	44.2
Sauerbrunn, Ind.	49	2,137	67	44.2
Hendrich, Ten.	49	2,137	67	44.2
Moorman, N.Y.	53	2,282	69	43.2
Hanson, Jac.	52	2,223	69	43.2
Larson, C.N.	62	2,568	67	42.7
Garodnick, P.D.	54	2,297	68	42.5
S. Miller, N.E.	53	2,267	67	42.5
Scifres, S.D.	43	1,891	57	42.1
Stanley, Hou.	52	1,981	57	42.1

Punt Returns

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Clements, Buf.	10	259	113	86.1
Hall, K.C.	10	118	115	46
C. Johnson, C.N.	15	166	111	30
Smith, Den.	15	166	111	30
Sams, Bal.	1	466	101	1
Lewis, Jac.	22	227	99	50
Johnson, Hou.	17	173	77	17
Ward, S.D.-Mia.	23	252	93	25
Ward, Bal.	10	107	51	61.1
Parker, S.D.	21	183	87	32

Kickoff Returns

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
McCahee, Buf.	41	1,030	221	87.1
Davitt, S.D.	21	527	251	41
Hall, K.C.	16	1,098	186	1
Alston, C.D.	26	667	238	92.1
J. Johnson, N.E.	18	729	223	92.1
T. Edwards, Jac.	15	335	223	45
Johnson, Hou.	17	729	223	45
Coleough, P.D.	17	378	222	48
Rhodes, Ind.	12	222	22	39

Scoring Touchdowns

Player	TD	Rec	Ret	Pts
Holmes, K.C.	15	11	0	66
Bettis, P.D.	11	0	11	66
Gates, S.D.	11	0	11	66
Johnson, N.E.	0	66	0	66
Tomlinson, S.D.	11	11	0	66
Martin, N.Y.J.	9	8	1	54
Davis, Hou.	9	8	1	54
Wayne, Ind.	8	8	0	48
Stokely, Ind.	8	8	0	48
Dillon, N.E.	8	8	0	48

Kicking

Player	Yds	FG	LG	Pts
Vinateri, N.E.	28	28	29	48
McCahee, Buf.	32	28	28	48
Elam, Den.	29	29	16	52
Kearney, S.D.	38	29	16	52
Dawson, N.E.	31	29	16	52
Reed, P.D.	29	29	16	52
Johnson, N.E.	31	29	16	52
K. Brown, Hou.	23	23	16	51
Johnson, N.E.	24	24	16	51
Brien, N.Y.J.	24	24	16	51
Vanderjaght, Ind.	45	15	41	69

Team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE

Team	Yds	TDs	Pass	Rush
Indianapolis	413	12	263	28.4
Kansas City	412	15	263	26.3
San Diego	364	18	238	22.6
San Francisco	360	13	227.2	22.2
Houston	340	10	218	21.8
New England	337	13	215.9	21.4
Jacksonville	331	11	215.9	21.4
Oakland	329	11	215.9	21.4
Oakland	317.9	7.4	242.5	24.25
Cincinnati	308.5	11	195.3	19.53
Cleveland	280	10	170	19.1
Seattle	280	10	172.6	17.26
Miami	265.5	8.1	184.8	18.48
Atlanta	248.4	11.5	131.4	14.4

DEFENSE

Team	Yds	TDs	Pass	Rush
Pittsburgh	244.2	7.4	168.8	16.88
San Francisco	237.1	12.5	162.5	16.25
Baltimore	238	10	167.7	17.1
Miami	236.1	11	162.5	16.25
New York Jets	236.1	10	162.5	16.25
Denver	224.7	9.6	160.8	16.08
New England	219.1	10	159.3	15.93
Tennessee	217.1	11.5	136.5	13.65
San Diego	213.4	7.4	129.5	12.95
Jacksonville	202.7	10.6	116.7	11.67
Seattle	202.4	10.6	116.7	11.67
Cincinnati	202.4	10.6	116.7	11.67
Cincinnati	202.4	10.6	116.7	11.67
Houston	196.7	11.3	125.2	12.52
Kansas City	170.7	11.7	124.8	12.48
Indianapolis	175.9	11.8	125.1	12.51

NFC individual leaders

Week 12 Quarterbacks

Player	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Culpepper, Min.	380	240	3,180	28	7
McNabb, Phil.	350	224	2,882	22	11
Brees, S.D.	303	194	2,710	21	9
Favre, G.B.	334	204	2,641	22	11
Valdes-Solis, A.C.	315	197	2,607	12	6
Warner, N.Y.G.	268	168	2,087	16	4
Vick, Atl.	299	168	2,087	16	4
Harrison, Den.	317	181	1,931	14	6
Rattay, S.F.	304	180	2,160	10	9
Deshaun, Atl.	269	159	2,025	19	13

Rushers

Player	Att	Yds	LG	TD
Alexander, Sea.	227	1,150	50	44
Barber, N.Y.J.	224	1,040	52	1
Portis, Was.	244	945	39	60
Allen, S.F.	199	845	40	12
Vick, Atl.	99	709	72	29
F. Smith, S.F.	184	693	42	3
Smith, Ariz.	184	679	37	28
Westbrook, Phil.	148	653	42	6
Dunn, Atl.	158	642	41	54
T. Jones, Chi.	148	616	41	70

Receivers

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Horn, N.O.	69	840	138	57
Bruce, S.F.	67	1,026	153	96
E. Johnson, S.F.	65	684	103	50
Owens, Phil.	61	869	159	59
Driver, G.B.	61	804	132	50
Walker, G.B.	60	960	160	79
Clyde, S.F.	58	844	144	64
Hoff, S.F.	58	775	134	52
Witten, Den.	58	775	134	52
Coles, Was.	59	661	114	45

Punters

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	49	2,047	57	44.2
Sauerbrunn, Ind.	49	2,137	67	44.2
Berger, N.O.	51	2,223	69	43.2
Moorman, N.Y.	53	2,282	69	43.2
Lundetta, S.F.	40	1,733	67	42.5
Clyde, S.F.	40	1,733	67	42.5
Maynard, Phil.	78	3,315	58	42.5
Johnson, N.E.	51	2,223	69	43.2
Feagles, N.Y.G.	51	2,223	69	43.2
Johnson, N.E.	51	2,223	69	43.2
Harris, Den.	65	2,729	58	42.0

Punt Returns

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Drummond, Den.	27	335	124	79.1
Ross, Atl.	27	335	124	79.1
Johnson, S.F.	16	176	110	91
Burleson, Min.	16	176	110	91
Thresh, Was.	15	141	94	43
Clyde, S.F.	14	141	94	43
Ward, Atl.	14	141	94	43
Chatham, Den.	22	189	77	20
Williams, Ariz.	28	193	69	0

Kickoff Returns

Player	No	Yds	LG	TD
Drummond, Den.	41	1,092	265	99
Johnson, S.F.	1	452	192	1
Cox, T.B.	26	675	260	89
Johnson, S.F.	26	675	260	89
Berrian, Chi.	15	356	237	41
Johnson, S.F.	15	356	237	41
Wells, N.O.	48	1,052	229	61
Scobey, Ariz.	22	526	229	71
Johnson, S.F.	18	484	226	25
Hicks, S.F.	18	484	226	25

Scoring Touchdowns

	Touchdowns		
	TD	Rush	Rec
ander, Sea.	13	10	3
ns, Phil.	13	0	13
er, NY-G	10	9	1
s, Min.	9	0	9
ammad, Car.	9	0	9
nan, T.B.	9	6	3
er, G.B.	9	0	9
	9	0	9

Brawl triggers new guidelines

The Associated Press

The NBA will set new security guidelines for its arenas, exerting more authority over 13 major arenas previously left to individual teams, commissioner David Stern said Tuesday.

Stern said the Nov. 19 Pacers-Pistons brawl that spilled into the streets and led to three Indiana players being suspended for 25 or more games — including the season-long penalty for Ron Artest — exposed current policies as inadequate.

"I would say that's a whole subject that we have historically not going to be good enough any-

more, so we're going to take another look at it," Stern said in his first public announcement of the suspensions.

Stern said the new guidelines will be in effect by early January.

On Monday, Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyia said that Pacers players will be charged for fighting with fans during the brawl.

"Whoever was involved in fist-cuffs will be charged, regardless if they were wearing a jersey. It's obvious there were several Pacer players and fans that dealt blows," Gorceyia said, the newspaper reported Tuesday.

The prosecutor declined to say

which players would be charged or what the charges might be.

Auburn Hills Police Lt. James Manning told the newspaper that he expects four members of the Pacers to face assault and battery charges.

Stern said concerns raised by the brawl had been a secondary issue in recent years.

He hinted the new security guidelines could include a ban on certain language used by fans.

"We know that you can't hurt objects at a game, and it may be that you can't hurt certain explosives, either," he said.

"Actually, the area of most concern for us was protecting our building from terrorist threats," he said.

Knicks fans attack 'fire Gundy' straight Houston drops fourth straight

The Associated Press

The Houston Rockets were finishing up one of their worst performances of the season when a chant rang out from behind the bench.

"Fire Gundy" the fans said in unison, prompting coach Jeff Van Gundy to turn and nod in their direction.

"I think it starts with me," Van Gundy said after a 93-72 loss Tuesday night to the Detroit Pistons. "I'm going to get a group that looks like they really want to play. I just haven't provided that this year, and for that, I'm very apologetic to our fans."

The Rockets lost their fourth game in a row and fourth straight in home, dropping to 6-10 in a season that hasn't gone nearly as smoothly as predicted after Houston acquired Tracy McGrady in the offseason.

McGrady was held to 16 points for the Rockets, who were booed off the court as the game ended.

Antonio McDyess had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Richard Hamilton also scored 19 to help the Pistons snap a five-game road losing streak.

"That's the way we used to play," coach Larry Brown said. "That's probably our best game all year."

McDyess scored the Pistons' first 12 points in the opening 4½ minutes, filling in admirably as All-Star center Ben Wallace completed a six-game suspension for his role in the Nov. 19 brawl with the Indiana Pacers. The Pistons went 3-3 without him, and they certainly didn't need him against the punchless Rockets.

Houston scored a season-low 72 points, committed 19 turnovers and attempted 16 fewer field goals.

"We're losing and it seems like it's the same type of effort every night," McGrady said. "It's got to change because right now it's pretty embarrassing."

Jim Jackson led Houston with 24 points and eight rebounds.

Trail Blazers 100, SuperSonics 94: Zach Randolph had 19 points, including a key jumper with 17.2 seconds left, and Portland snapped the Sonics' four-game winning streak.

Shaheer Adnan-Rahim led the Blazers with 25 points, and Darious Miles had 20. The Sonics, who have lost five straight visits to the Rose Garden, were led by Rashard Lewis with 29 points.

Spurs 107, Mavericks 89: Devin Brown sparked a fourth-quarter spurt with two three-point plays and two dunks, helping San Antonio spoil the season-coaching debut of Avery Johnson in Dallas.

Johnson, the hand-picked successor of Dallas coach Don Nelson, ran the game as if he had never already been. Nelson was there, too, but offered only suggestions. This was the first of about six

Roundup

such training sessions Nelson has planned.

Suns 115, Jazz 102: At Salt Lake City, Steve Nash had 20 points and 14 assists to lead the Suns to their eighth straight win.

Amare Stoudemire scored 29 points, Shawn Marion scored 21 and both pulled down nine rebounds for the Suns, who were too fast for Utah and outscored the Jazz 33-22 in the fourth quarter. Quentin Richardson scored 18 points, and Joe Johnson added 15 as all five Suns starters reached double figures.

Knicks 110, Hawks 109 (OT): Jamal Crawford's three-point shot with 24 seconds left in overtime won it for New York in Atlanta.

Nazz Mohammed fouled Antoine Walker with 2 seconds left, but Walker — who scored a season-high 36 points — missed the first free throw. Following a time-out, Walker made the second free throw despite trying to intentionally miss the shot. The Knicks then rebounded and ran out the clock.

Kings 98, Grizzlies 93: Peja Stojakovic had 29 points, and Chris Webber added 22 points and 11 rebounds.

The loss was the Grizzlies' second straight at home and fourth straight overall, three of them coming since former coach Hubie Brown resigned unexpectedly.

Memphis pulled to 94-93 after an 8-0 run, but jumpers by Mike Bibby and Webber in the closing seconds assured the victory.

Lakers 95, Bucks 90: At Milwaukee, Shaquille O'Neal scored a career-high 25 points, including five three-pointers, and Kobe Bryant added 20 points despite being held without a field goal for the final three quarters.

Cook also had a career-high 11 rebounds, and Lamar Odom added 16 points and 11 rebounds as the Lakers beat the Bucks for the second time in seven days and the eighth straight time overall.

Raptors 94, Heat 92: Jalen Rose scored 24 points, including the decisive free throws with 15.6 seconds left, to help Toronto snap a six-game road losing streak.

Shaquille O'Neal led Miami with a season-high 34 points, shooting 12-for-15 from the field and 10-of-13 from the foul line.

He entered the game a 43-per-cent shot fooster.

Nets 99, Bobcats 86: Richard Jefferson scored 23 points and Eric Williams had a season-high 22 points in a game that ended in a nine-game losing streak.

Emeka Okafor led Charlotte with 26 points and 12 rebounds, but the game was as if he had never already been. Jason Hart added 15 for the Bobcats, who dropped to 0-6 on the road.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
New York	6	53B	—
Philadelphia	7	48B	—
Toronto	7	43B	1½
Washington	11	38B	—
New Jersey	11	21A	4½
Southeast Division			
Miami	10	62S	—
Orlando	8	61S	1½
Washington	8	57B	—
Charlotte	12	42B	7½
Central Division			
Indiana	10	71A	—
Chicago	7	64B	—
Cleveland	7	50B	—
Pittsburgh	12	59B	7½

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
San Antonio	10	60B	—
Dallas	10	62S	2½
Houston	10	61S	—
Memphis	10	53B	—
Phoenix	12	57B	—
Northwest Division			
Seattle	8	81B	—
Minnesota	8	61S	3½
Portland	8	57B	—
Utah	8	57B	4½
Pacific Division			
Phoenix	2	85B	—
Sacramento	5	64B	—
Golden State	5	63B	—
L.A. Lakers	9	60B	3½
New York	11	52B	21½

Tuesday's games			
New York 111, Atlanta 109, OT			
Sacramento 84, Miami 92			
Phoenix 109, Chicago 99			
Sacramento 88, Memphis 93			
San Antonio 107, Dallas 99			
Phoenix 115, Utah 102			
Portland 100, Seattle 94			

Wednesday's games			
Milwaukee at Boston			
New York at Washington			
Sacramento at New Orleans			
Philadelphia at San Antonio			
Atlanta at Phoenix			
Utah at Cleveland			
Minnesota at Dallas			
Houston at Golden State			

Friday's games			
Toronto at Boston			
Washington at Atlanta			
New York at Detroit			
Philadelphia at Memphis			
Miami at Chicago			
Golden State at Phoenix			
Golden State at L.A. Lakers			

Knicks 110, Hawks 109 (OT)

NEW YORK — Khomein Mahmoud scored 19 points, including 12 in overtime, to lead the Knicks to a 110-109 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in a game that was as much a war of attrition as a basketball game.

Atlanta — Harrison 3-0 7-11, Walker 2-4 1-10, Collier 2-4 1-10, Anderson 0-0 0-0, Chidress 0-4 1-7, Willis 3-12 2-21, Perry 2-4 1-10, McCoy 0-0 0-0, 15min 11:24, Dallas 4-6 0-0, Willis 3-6 2-2, 28:00

omas 0-1, Brewer 0-1, Williams 0-1), Atlanta 10-16 (Walker 5-6, Delk 3-3, Diaw 2-4, Barry 0-3). Fouled out—Delk. Rebounds—New York 50 (Mohammed 15), Atlanta 61 (Walker 13). Assists—New York 19 (Marbury, J.Crawford 6), Atlanta 21 (Diaw, Harrington, Walker 4). Total fouls—New York 25, Atlanta 26. Technicals—Atlanta Defensive Three Second 4. A—10,879 (19,445).

No. 10 Duke's backcourt handles Michigan State

Ewing, Redick split workload vs. Spartans

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — J.J. Redick handled the scoring for Duke in the first half against Michigan State. Daniel Ewing took over in the second half and the Blue Devils held on to remain perfect in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Both guards had 29 points and both made five three-pointers as No. 10 Duke beat the 11th-ranked Spartans 81-74 on Tuesday night.

Redick had 21 points in the first half, and Ewing had 15 in the second as the Blue Devils (4-0) improved to 6-0 in the made-for-TV conference matchup and beat Michigan State (3-1) for the second straight season.

"I was definitely in the zone in the first half," Redick said. "I was really in the flow of the offense. It felt good, that was the first time it's been that way this year."

Ewing's last three came in the final minute, when he hit one with the shot clock winding down to give Duke a 78-73 lead. Michigan State's Paul Davis missed two free throws with 15 seconds left, part of a 3-for-8 effort from the line down the stretch for the Spartans.

"We know we're a good team," Ewing said. "We just did what we had to do."

Davis led the Spartans with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

"We just wanted to try to come down here and try to get a win," Davis said. "We weren't worried about last year. Everybody played their hearts out."

Duke beat Michigan State 72-50 last season.

In a 3-minute span late in the second half Tuesday, Ewing made a three, drove down the lane for a pull-up jumper and added a layup.

"There were a lot of good players out on that court, but he was the most mature player out there," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of Ewing. "He had the look of a champion out on the court. J.J. was great, don't get me wrong, but Daniel was handling it and he was absolutely great."

No. 4 Georgia Tech 99, Michigan 68: B.J. Elder scored 27 points, Will Bynum had 19, and Jarrett Jack added 16 for the Yellow Jackets (4-0), who shot 54 percent from the field and led by as many as 25 points.

Courtney Sims had 17 points for visiting Michigan (3-3), which had 18 turnovers and shot just 41



Duke guard Daniel Ewing, left, moves around Michigan State's Maurice Ager Tuesday in Durham, N.C. Ewing and backcourt mate J.J. Redick each scored 29 points for the Blue Devils in their 81-74 victory.

percent in losing its third straight.

No. 7 Connecticut 99, Fla. International 48: Rashad Anderson scored 17 points and the Huskies (2-0) blocked a school-record 19 shots in posting the home win.

Hilton Armstrong had a career-high five blocks, and Josh Boone had four blocks and 11 rebounds for Connecticut, which finished with a 57-36 advantage on the boards.

Ivan Almonte and Ishmael N'Diaye each had 12 points for the Golden Panthers (3-2).

No. 8 Kentucky 92, Tennessee Tech 63: Kelema Anderson scored 21 points and Chuck Hayes overcame foul trouble to add 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Wildcats (4-0).

Willie Jenkins had 18 points for the visiting Golden Eagles (1-3).

No. 25 Wisconsin 69, No. 12 Maryland 64: Alando Tucker scored a career-high 27 points and the Badgers (3-1) won their 31st consecutive home game, tying Stephen F. Austin for the longest current Division I home winning streak.

Zach Morley scored all 12 of his points over the final 7-40 for Wisconsin, including three free throws in the final 16 seconds of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge matchup.

Ekene Ibekwe scored 21 points to lead Maryland (3-1), which

trailed 64-57 with a minute to play and pulled within 66-64 on a three-pointer by Nik Caner-Medley with 21 seconds remaining.

No. 19 Florida 88, Florida A&M 51: Mohamed Abukar scored a career-high 22 points to lead the Gators (4-0). The sophomore was 8-for-10 from the field, including 4-for-6 from three-point range.

Jonathan Kelly and Michael Harper each had 10 points for the Rattlers (0-4), who have lost their opening four road games by a combined 122 points.

No. 21 Arizona 98, Wyoming 70: Salim Stoudamire and freshman Jawaan McClellan each scored 19 points and the Wildcats (4-2) pulled away in the second half.

McClellan was 5-for-10 from the field, including 2-for-4 on three-pointers, and was 7-for-8 from the foul line. Stoudamire was 3-for-4 on three.

Jay Stratford scored 19 points for the Cowboys (3-1), who were playing their first road game of the season.

No. 23 Iowa 91, Drake 75: Jeff Horner and Adam Halukua each scored 21 points and Horner added eight rebounds and six assists to lead the Hawkeyes (4-1) to the road win.

Allon Keita had a career-high 23 points for the Bulldogs (1-2), who have lost 26 straight to their instate rival.

Giants sign Benitez; Mets court Martinez

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — While Mets fans discussed whether their team has a chance to land Pedro Martinez, former New York closer Armando Benitez found a new club, agreeing Tuesday to a \$21.5 million, three-year contract with the San Francisco Giants.

Cincinnati, meanwhile, retained a key part of its rotation, agreeing to re-sign ex-Met Paul Wilson for \$8.2 million over two years.

Martinez isn't close to making a decision on where to sign, a person close to the free-agent ace said on condition of anonymity, and is likely to wait until the New York Yankees determine their level of interest. That could hinge on whether they acquire Randy Johnson from Arizona in a trade that could send Javier Vazquez to the Diamondbacks.

The Mets, trying to make a splash in the free-agent market, offered a \$37.5 million, three-year contract last weekend, an agent with knowledge of the proposal said, also on condition of anonymity. The offer contains an option for a fourth season that could make the deal worth \$50

million over four years, the agent said.

Boston has offered a two-year deal to retain Martinez and must decide by Dec. 7 whether to offer salary arbitration, which would extend the window for the World Series champion Red Sox to re-sign him until Jan. 8.

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, would not comment on the Mets' proposal, which was first reported Tuesday in several New York and Boston newspapers. New Mets general manager Omar Minaya declined comment.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner met with Martinez in Tampa, Fla., on Nov. 18, and Martinez also met in Florida with New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez.

But the Yankees' primary interest in recent days appears to be Johnson, the 41-year-old left-hander who would prefer to leave the rebuilding Diamondbacks and play for a contender.

Benitez, who bounced back from a subpar 2003 season to save an NL-leading 47 games in 51 chances for Florida last season, gets a \$7.4 million signing bonus and salaries of \$2.5 million in 2005, \$4 million in 2006 and \$7.6 million in 2007.

D.C. panel OKs funding for ballpark, caps costs

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The District of Columbia Council approved financing a ballpark for the Washington-bound Expos after voting Tuesday to cap funding at \$630 million.

The council approved the plan 6-4 with three members, including Chair Linda W. Cropp, voting present. The measure must be approved a second time to become law.

"We're happy that the vote was to approve," said John McHale, an executive vice president in the commissioner's office and a member of baseball's relocation committee.

Cropp's preliminary calls for Washington's chief financial officer to produce another estimate of the project's cost in six months. If it is more than \$100 million above the current \$530 million estimate, the location of the ballpark would have to be moved to a less costly site than the one south of the Capitol agreed to by Washington and the Expos, who would be re-named the Nationals.

Indiana fires football coach

INDIANAPOLIS — Gerry Dinardo was fired as Indiana's football coach after a 3-8 season that ended with a 63-24 loss to Purdue in the Hoosiers' season finale in eight years to their state rival.

Dinardo, who has two years left on his contract, had an 8-27 record in three seasons marked by a complete roster turnover. Dinardo replaced Cam Cameron after the 2001 season. After the rout by Purdue, he said "this

Sports briefs

was just about the worst day we've had as a team."

Hings making brief return

WASHINGTON — Martina Hings plans to play a tournament in Thailand in January, the first WTA Tour event for the former No. 1-ranked player since 2002.

Hings will play the Yoko Women's Open in Pattaya to raise money for several Thai charities that help women and children who have suffered from abuse, homelessness and illness.

Hings was 22 when she retired in 2002 after operations on both ankles.

Baseball club net \$800,000

WILLOWBROOK, Ill. — A complete set of 1914 Cracker Jack baseball cards featuring "Sholess" Joe Jackson and Ty Cobb has been sold for a record \$800,000.

The cards were in pristine condition, said Doug Allen, president of MastroNet Inc., an auction house in this Chicago suburb. He said the previous record for a complete set of baseball cards was \$360,000.

A New York woman — who along with the buyer asked to remain anonymous — found the 144-card set with 2,500 other baseball cards in a shoe box in her home. The cards originally belonged to her uncle, who died during World War II. The woman's father kept them until his death last year, Allen said.

After falling flat, BC heads to Tire Bowl

The Associated Press

Boston College missed out on a Bowl Championship Series game thanks to a lopsided loss to Syracuse, so it must settle for the Continental Tire Bowl instead.

Bowl games

The Eagles (8-3) were invited to the Dec. 30 bowl in Charlotte, N.C., on Tuesday, three days after falling to the Orange days 43-17 and losing the opportunity to win their first outright Big East title. The Eagles will face future ACC rival North Carolina (6-5) in the bowl.

There was plenty of other bowl action Tuesday, including Georgia accepting a bid to play Wisconsin in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day in Tampa, Fla., and Florida State formally accepting its bid to play in the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1 against West Virginia.

Also, Boise State will play Louisville in the Liberty Bowl. New Mexico faces Navy in the Emerald Bowl; Connecticut heads to the Motor City Bowl; Marshall was invited to the Fort Worth Bowl against Cincinnati; Bowling Green will play Memphis in the GMAC Bowl; Georgia Tech goes to the Champs Sports Bowl; Wyoming is headed to the Las Vegas Bowl; and Virginia is off to the MPC Computers Bowl. Peach Bowl officials said they want Florida to play in the Dec. 31 game.

It looks like No. 22 Texas A&M and No. 21 Arizona State will be invited to play in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego on Dec. 30.

However, if there's a shift in the BCS final standings and Texas moves ahead of California, the Holiday Bowl could match Cal against Texas Tech.

In addition, Notre Dame players are considering not playing in the Insight Bowl on Dec. 28 after coach Tyrone Willingham was fired. Athletic director Kevin White said he didn't know who

would coach the game. Notre Dame accepted the invitation on Sunday.

All Boston College had to do to get a berth in either the Fiesta or Sugar Bowl was win at home against a Syracuse team that was 5-5 and needed a victory just to be bowl eligible. But the Eagles could not get it done in their last season in the Big East. BC and Syracuse finished tied for the league title with Pittsburgh and West Virginia.

The Eagles join the ACC next year.

"We've got a lot to prove," said BC quarterback Paul Peterson, who missed the Syracuse game with a broken hand. "People say we're no good after just one game. We're going to prove we're a good team."

No. 8 Georgia (9-2), considered a national title contender at the beginning of the season, fell short with losses to SEC rivals Tennessee and Auburn.

Still, the Outback Bowl is a good consolation prize, following appearances in the Sugar and Capital One the past two years.

The Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn., features the nation's top two offenses. No. 7 Louisville (9-1) leads the nation in total and scoring offense behind quarterback Stefan Lefors, while No. 11 Boise State (11-0) is second in both categories.

Connecticut (4-4) will play the winner of Thursday night's Mid-American Conference title game between Toledo (8-3) and Miami of Ohio (8-3) in its first postseason trip as a Division I-A school.

Marshall (6-5) earned its seventh bowl trip in eight seasons despite losing two of its final three games.

The second-year Fort Worth Bowl was supposed to pit teams from Conference USA and the Big 12, but there weren't enough eligible Big 12 schools. Bowl officials had also negotiated with the

ingham didn't wish to speak to the media on Tuesday, but in the past he frequently said no one had higher expectations for Notre Dame than he did.

He said the biggest problem for the Irish was the inability to play well on a regular basis, particularly on offense.

"Because it keeps you from being the consistent winner and creating that momentum that you need," he said heading into the Tennessee game three weeks ago.

White praised Willingham, saying the coach had done everything the school wanted off the field. It was on the field that was the problem.

"We simply have not made the progress on the field that we need to make," White said. "Nor have we been able to create the positive momentum necessary in our efforts to return the Notre Dame program to the elite level of the college football world."

Willingham finishes at Notre Dame with a 21-15 record, a winning percentage of .583



Instead of playing in the Fiesta or Sugar bowls, Boston College's Andre Callender (32) will go to Charlotte, N.C., for the Continental Tire Bowl.

ACC and Big East for another opportunity.

Georgia Tech finally will play in a bowl that's not too far from home. After being sent out there for three straight years, the Yellow Jackets (6-5) will play a team from the Big 12 in the bowl formerly known as the Tangerine.

The announcement had been expected since the weekend, when Virginia said it would not play in a bowl from Dec. 13 to 21 because of exams. The Cavaliers will play on Dec. 27 in Boise, Idaho, their third straight bowl appearance.

Virginia's opponent has not been determined, but Gary Beck, executive director of the MPC Computers Bowl, said an offer has been made to Fresno State.

The Peach Bowl wants the Gators and hopes Ron Zook will hang around to coach the game in Atlanta.

Bowl president Gary Stokan

said that the selection committee voted for Florida over Alabama as its choice from the SEC, assuming the Gators are available.

There's one caveat: An Auburn loss in the SEC title game could force the Peach in a different direction. The Peach Bowl is not expected to formally announce Florida as one of its teams until after Saturday's SEC title game between the Tigers and Tennessee.

No. 20 Florida (7-4) is expected to play the loser of Saturday's Miami-Virginia Tech game. The winner will get the ACC's automatic bid to the BCS.

Zook was fired last month but agreed to finish out his third season. He hasn't said whether he will coach in the bowl. Alabama (6-5) is expected to play in the Music City Bowl.

New Mexico (7-4) is headed for its third straight postseason appearance following back-to-back trips to the Las Vegas Bowl.

percent. That's the same winning percentage as his predecessor, Dave (35-25). Since 1913, only Kuharchic (42.5) and Faust (53.5) have won winning percentages.

The school thought they found the perfect coach during Willingham's first season. He got off to an 8-0 start—the second best start in school history—and after a surprisingly easy victory at Florida State, the Irish, at No. 4, had their highest ranking in eight years. The Irish went 2-3 their last five games that season, including a 28-6 loss to North Carolina State in the Gator Bowl. They went 5-7 last season, losing by 30 or more points to Michigan, Florida State and Southern California.

This season the Irish pulled off upsets of Michigan and Tennessee but also were beaten badly by USC and Purdue. They also lost games they were expected to win against BYU, Boston College and Pittsburgh.

Despite finishing a disappointing 6-5 this season, the Irish accepted an invitation Sunday to the Insight Bowl in Phoenix on Dec. 28. It's not clear now whether the Irish will still go, and if they do who will coach them.

Bowl games

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Miss (6-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. Big 12
Wednesday, Dec. 22
PAC-10 Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Memphis (9-2) vs. Bowling Green (9-3)
Thursday, Dec. 23
Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl
Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)
At Las Vegas, Nev.
Wyoming (6-5) vs. Pac-10 N/A, 4/5
Friday, Dec. 24
Kauai Bowl
At Honolulu
Monday, Dec. 27
MPC Computers Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
MAC vs. Connecticut (7-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Big 12 vs. ACC

Insight Bowl
At Phoenix
Pac-10 N/A, 4/5 vs. Notre Dame (6-5)
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl
Texas-El Paso (8-3) vs. Big 12
Thursday, Dec. 30
At San Antonio
Ohio State (11-0) vs. Big 12 N/A, 4
Thursday, Dec. 30
Continental Tire Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Boston College (4-4) vs. North Carolina (6-5)
Friday, Dec. 31
Emerald Bowl
At Fresno, Calif.
New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)
Friday, Dec. 31
At San Diego
Pac-10 N/A, 12/13 vs. Big 12 N/A, 12/13
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
WAC vs. MAC

Friday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
SEC vs. Minnesota (6-5)
Sun Bowl
At Dallas, Texas
Purdue (7-4) vs. Pac-10 N/A, 12/13
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Louisiana (11-0) vs. Louisiana (9-1)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
ACC No. 3 vs. SEC

Monday, Jan. 1
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
SEC vs. Big 12 N/A, 12/13
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)
Gator Bowl
At Gainesville, Fla.
Florida State (8-3) vs. West Virginia (8-3)
Florida State
At Orlando, Fla.

Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or B7A
Fiesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.

Monday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
BCS vs. BCS

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
BCS1 vs. BCS2

List: Notre Dame courting Meyer

LIST, FROM BACK PAGE

"I guess I'm one of those guys, I try to avoid it," Meyer said. "You can only avoid it for so long. I'm not going to have a team meeting to discuss it. I think our guys are still focused."

The 40-year-old Meyer has been mentioned for other jobs. He's dealt with comment on the Florida opening ever since Ron Zook was fired last month. Meyer has only said he and his family are happy in Utah and he plans on coaching there a long time.

Meyer left Notre Dame for his first head coaching job, at Bowling Green. He quickly turned around the Falcons, going 8-3 and 9-3 before being fired to Utah in 2003. The Utes were 10-2 last season.

"He's a great coach and he's obviously had a lot of success," Utah quarterback Alex Smith said. "He's a great coach and he's obviously had a lot of success, somebody's going to want a piece of you. Right now, they're going to want him."

A surprising 3-and-out for Willingham

By TOM COYNE

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Tyrone Willingham often used the word "more" to describe what it was like to coach at Notre Dame. More pressure. More scrutiny. More urgency.

In the end, though, he got less.

He was fired Tuesday after just three seasons, receiving less time than Bob Davie, Gerry Faust or even Joe Kuharich to turn around Notre Dame's fortunes. He served the shortest tenure of any non-interim coach since Hunk Anderson was there from 1953-55.

Athletic director Kevin White said he doesn't think firing Willingham so quickly, after most Irish coaches received five years, is the sign of a new era.

"If it says anything, it's an underscore of the notion that football is very important to Notre Dame and the competitive expectations are not downwardly negotiable," White said.

Willingham knew that. The school said Will-

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SPORTS

Parcells says Testaverde
will start Monday's game
at Seattle, Page 41



Duke topples Michigan State



J.J. Redick (4), shooting over Michigan State's Kelvin Torbert (23), had 29 points — 21 in the first half — to lead No. 10 Duke to an 81-74 victory over No. 11 Michigan State in Durham, N.C., on Tuesday. The Atlantic Coast Conference has won four of five games in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. See Page 44 for details.

**Rockets' fourth
straight loss turns
fans against
Van Gundy;
NBA to set new
security guidelines**

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Gates jamming in S.D. Page 42



**No. 25 Wisconsin
tops 12th-ranked
Maryland and
extends home
winning streak
to 31 games**

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Chiefs coach Vermeil says he'll be back in 2005 Page 41



Utah football coach Urban Meyer, left, with wife Shelley, and daughter, Gigi, has compiled a 21-2 record in two seasons at Utah. Meyer, 40, was an assistant coach at Notre Dame from 1996-2000.

Utah's Meyer tops Irish's list

Tedford, Ferentz and Gruden
also considered candidates

BY DOUG ALDEN
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Notre Dame is looking for a coach, and Utah's Urban Meyer could be among the top candidates to take over college football's most glamorous program.

Meyer, a Fighting Irish assistant for five years, couldn't avoid answering questions on the topic after Tyrone Willingham was fired Tuesday. Meyer has a clause in his contract that allows him to leave to coach Notre Dame without a buyout.

"I have great respect for that university," Meyer said Tuesday after leading his fifth-ranked Utes (11-4) through practice. "That's the reason it's in my contract."

"I think a lot of people look into it more than what it is. I'm sure that this is going to spark a lot of discussion, but I'm just trying to get a team ready to play in a bowl game."

While Notre Dame (6-5) was reconsidering whether to play in

the Insight Bowl, Utah is set to become the first non-BCS school to play in a Bowl Championship Series game — most likely the Fiesta Bowl.

Meyer isn't the only candidate to surface. Others include California coach Jeff Tedford, Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz and Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Jon Gruden.

Tedford has had success at a school with high academic expectations similar to Notre Dame's; Ferentz was hired at Maine in 1990 by current Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White; and Gruden was mentioned prominently in the Notre Dame search three years ago. Gruden grew up in South Bend and his father was an assistant under former Irish coach Dan Devine.

Meyer, though, is the top name right now. He talked to a few players who asked him about the Notre Dame opening. The coach declined to say whether he would be interested if the school called.

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